

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

## AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LI.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1900.

No. 10.

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### BIRTHS.

On the 3rd instant, at Hoilow, the wife of P. E. O'BRIEN-BUTLER, of H.B.M. Consular Service, of a daughter.

On the 5th March, at "Hantley," the wife of LAURENCE GIBBS, P.W.D., of a daughter.

### DEATH.

On the 6th March, 1900, at 6, Queen's Gardens, Hongkong, BERTIE WALTER MORRELL, aged 25 years.

### ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 2nd February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, on the 3rd March (28 days); the American mail of the 22nd January arrived, per P. M. steamer *Algoa*, on the 5th March (42 days); the German mail of the 5th February arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Konig Albert*, on the 6th March (29 days); and the American mail of the 9th February arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Nippon Maru*, on the 9th March (28 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

On the 2nd inst. telegraphic communication between Hongkong and Macao was interrupted.

According to the census taken at the end of January there were 463 Japanese dwellings and 1,854 Japanese in Seoul.

It is reported that a conflict has taken place on the Yunnan frontier between British troops and the Chinese, in which the latter had 80 casualties.

At a big fire in Yokohama on the 23rd ult. some 350 houses were burnt down, the conflagration starting at the spot where the great fire of last August originated.

Wu Chu Wei, military attaché of the Chinese Government at Manila and nephew of the Chinese Minister at Washington, who died suddenly on the 18th ult. at the Orient Hotel, Manila, was a native of Canton, whither his body is to be transported shortly.

A Tientsin correspondent writes that the report is current that the Emperor is spitting blood freely, which may be a sort of preparation for a more serious impending illness. "If they do away with him (of which I am by no means sure)," continues the writer, "it will probably be under colour of sickness."

A correspondent writes that a prominent official, in the course of conversation with him, expressed the opinion that the recent attack on our Border Commission was not a political *coup*, but was the outcome of the ordinary lawless state of the border, where a man's life is not safe from day to day.

The *Ko-lau-hui*, a salt-smuggling society, which numbers about 20,000 members and ranges between Ichang and Nganking, has been very busy in the Yangtze Valley lately, and the Taotai is said to be afraid to act against them, though pressed by the consul to take immediate steps to put the society down.

*L'Avenir du Tonkin* states that from the latest advices it appears that all fears of a rebellion in the district of *pr xangchoo-wan* have now been dissipated, and that the Chinese inhabitants accept French rule with satisfaction, counting on protection against the numerous piratical bands infesting the neighbourhood.

Mr. Wade Gardner and Mr. Harding, the British Commissioners appointed to decide the question arising out of the action of the Russian Government in contesting the validity of the title of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., to the property held by them in the Russian Concession at Hankow, returned from Hankow to Shanghai on the 2nd inst. per s.s. *Tatung*. They have been in conference with Messrs. Pokotilow of the Russo-Chinese Bank and Litvinoff of Messrs. Tokmakoff, Molotkoff & Co., but the result of the enquiry has not yet been made public.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* is responsible for the following:—On the 19th February Emperor Kwang Hsu received the Foreign Ambassadors at Peking in audience. The usual etiquette was observed. The Emperor, it is said, looked very ill. It is the general opinion that the Emperor will not long continue to occupy the throne. The Empress Dowager, it is affirmed, was concealed behind a curtain during the whole of the audience, and no doubt heard everything that passed between the Emperor and the Ambassadors. The new Emperor was not present at the audience.

Japanese papers profess to see indications of the Russian authorities "backing down" in the matter of licenses to Japanese fishermen in northern waters. At any rate, a telegram despatched by the Saghalien Fishing Guild (Japanese) to the chief office at Hakodate stated that any person granted fishing rights in any section last year within the specified area will have the right renewed this year, and no person is to be allowed on any part not included in the specified area whatever his nationality be. Possibly the Russian authorities were impressed by the attitude of Japan in this matter and are inclined to give way to some extent.

It is reported that Colonel Charles Denby and Professor Dean C. Worcester, of the U.S. Philippine Commission, are now en route from San Francisco to Manila. Assistant Secretary of War, Meiklejohn, is expected to arrive about the first of June.

A special telegram to *The Straits Times* announces that Mr. Arthur Butler, who has been acting as Resident of Pahang during the absence of Mr. Clifford, has been confirmed in the appointment. Mr. Arthur Butler entered the Malay State Service in 1883 as Assistant Superintendent of Lower Perak. He passed in Malay in 1885, and for 17 years he has filled many grades of office. He has acted as Resident of Pahang since Mr. Clifford left on leave; and he is reckoned to be a good man. The salary is \$500 a month with exchange compensation.

The *Shanghai Mercury* gives a letter from the late Rev. Sydney Brooks, murdered on the 31st December in Shantung, to a relative in England. In the course of the letter, Mr. Brooks speaks of a "Large Knife Society," which was causing trouble in the neighbourhood, and said:—I trust that they will not come here; we are defenceless, of course. Neither the official nor the Military official will be able to do anything for us, which means that we shall have to move into the city until they have done their work, and then come back to view the damage done. I glance uneasily round my room to see how much I have to lose; it is not much, but naturally I am not anxious to be deprived of what I have, and pray that the disturbance may pass over with no more harm to ourselves than that of not being able to continue our work."

It is reported from Nanking, says the *North China Daily News*, that H.E. Viceroy Liu, of that city, proposes to go up to Peking after all, and that he is preparing to start for the North via Shanghai on the 15th instant. *Apropos* of the above it is freely stated in local mandarin circles that should Viceroy Liu actually go up to Peking the chances will be greatly in favour of his returning to Nanking, there being now no longer any necessity for keeping him out of office since the failure of the *coup* to impose a new Emperor on the country. It is further reliably stated that H.E. has recently received numerous letters from supporters of the Emperor Kwang Hsu, urging H.E. to undertake the journey to the capital and secure his old post to himself, as it is generally believed that so long as Viceroy Liu holds office there will be no fear of another attempt to depose Kwang Hsu from his Throne.

A recent writer on Wei-hai-wei says:—"As a health resort, few places in the Far East or Far West afford such a bracing atmosphere. And in time many are the persons whose lungs are threatened with delicacy who will gladly take such advantage as to prolong their existence by inhaling such pure air and rare air as can be obtained from its breezes. The fact of the existence of numerous sulphur baths (which are free to the public) is a tangible factor towards producing its future success. Another attraction of Wei-hai-wei is the extensive bathing and boating beach. And in a few years time, with an esplanade and drive round the bay for a distance of four to five miles, it might readily be called the Naples of China. In the spring time nothing could be more pleasing to the artist's eye than the extraordinary bloom of flowers backed by the dark metal-stained soil which forms the earth of the hills."



## WHAT STOPS TARIFF REVISION.

(Daily Press, 6th Mar. h.)

To a casual observer it might seem strange that the question of the revision of the Tariff in China, which has been a matter for considerable discussion in England, should in China itself scarcely occupy a thought. It might, indeed, seem that our residents in China were so busily occupied in their own petty businesses that they failed to find time for the discussion of a topic so universal as the Tariff. It is now several months since H.E. LI HUNG-CHANG was appointed by the Empress Dowager, Minister of Finance, with the express object of revising the Tariff, and yet so little notice has been taken of so important a fact that not one meeting has been held nor one suggestion or recommendation made to the British or other Ministers. Surely our critics will say: Such a people are little worth our sympathy or consideration, who permit so vital a subject to pass without a moment's consideration. The simple fact is that the residents in China are by this time too well aware of the ordinary strategy of the Chinese not to perceive that the raising of the Tariff question is only an attempt to draw a red herring across the scent, and divert public opinion from the main facts of the case, which are far deeper and more important at the moment than any question of Tariff. On this Tariff question, it may be stated that there is nothing new, and the communities have long ago made up their minds. The present rate of duties was fixed some forty years ago, on a schedule intended to represent as nearly as possible a five per cent. scale. The prices of staples have materially changed since then; and it would be simple work for a committee of experts to re-assess the values of commodities forming then the staples of trade, and to place an assessment on those new productions which have since entered to an important extent into the commerce of the Far East. So far the problem is an easy one and involves no political question whatever. On the next stage there will be few differences of opinion, and those not international. The question is, what rate should in fairness be fixed so as to press with the least weight on trade? It is generally conceded that the present rate may be increased without detriment; but how much? LI HUNG-CHANG, with his favourite device of introducing strife into the most simple discussion, said, "We want money; let us simply double the present tariff." Russia, the least concerned of the Great Powers, was disposed to consent; but England, the most interested, dissented. On so simple a ground Li succeeded in producing a breach, which has had the effect of introducing Russia into Peking, and rendering China the shuttlecock of European diplomacy. With this question of increasing the Tariff comes in the question of improving its form. Here again the issues are simple, and, if only the various parties be permitted to agree, the result will be still more satisfactory to China than to the Powers. The whole of the present system of coast-trade duties and transit-pass fees is eminently unsatisfactory to all concerned, and the chief trading nations would willingly add the two and a half per cent as duty on all imports, on condition that the present restrictions should be removed. At present, only a fraction of the import trade pays this extra two and a half per cent; so that the proposal would be a direct and substantial gain to the Imperial revenue. The opposition to this simple and profitable proposal comes, not from without, but from

within, and, as usual, is made, by Chinese statesmen of the calibre of LI HUNG-CHANG, an opportunity for creating differences between the Powers. *Divide et Impera* is an old motto but one which requires higher qualities of statesmanship than are possessed by any Chinese statesman of this generation, to put in practise. *Divide et Imperare* represents more closely the form it has taken in actuality. The only hope indeed for China in her present predicament is to bring about such an understanding amongst the Powers as is indicated by Mr. HAY's Memorandum. But are statesmen such as LI HUNG-CHANG, Prince CHING, JUNG-LU, or the utterly unprincipled YUEN SHI-KAI, capable of discerning this truth? Surely not; and herein lies the great weakness of Mr. HAY's well-meant scheme. Russia might be supposed to grasp the plan and work in harmony and conjunction, but as long as men like those we have mentioned remain in charge of the helm, discord will always be found to divide the Powers, and afford the means for separate action without contravening the promise given. In the interests of China, as well as of foreign commercial states, it has long ago been pointed out how seriously the present regulations as to export duties hamper China's powers of production. How these affect China we may learn from a speech made by the chairman at the sixth ordinary meeting of the shareholders of the Lau Kung-mow Cotton Mill at Shanghai. In the course of his speech Mr. F. ANDERSON said:—"During the year it is calculated that close upon a million and a quarter of taels have been paid in Shanghai alone for wages and salaries in the cotton mills. Much of this money would have been lost to China, but for the establishment of this industry, and under these circumstances one would expect that the Government would be disposed to do all in its power to foster it; instead of this being the case, mills in China are handicapped in several ways compared with Indian, Japanese or Hongkong mills. For instance, we have to pay duty on Indian and American cotton, on our stores and coal, on paper, canvas, and hoops to make our bales, and in addition have to pay duty on our yarn at the same rate as imported yarn; our competitors elsewhere are exempt from this double duty. Again if we try to compete with spinners elsewhere in any market outside of China, we have to pay an export duty from which they are exempt; when we buy cotton from Hankow, or any other Treaty port in China, we have to pay coast-trade duty, which is in addition to the duty payable on yarn. It is to be hoped that the native authorities will be brought to see that it is contrary to the interests of China to retard the development of such an important addition to the wealth of the country, and that before long they will follow the example of all progressive countries and endeavour to foster native industry."

Although Mr. ANDERSON's speech referred solely to the cotton-spinning industry, the same hampering restrictions are on every productive industry in China;—tea, silk, straw-braid, coals, paper, sugar, &c., &c. Here is a burden which it lies in China's own hands to shake off, and in the removal of which she will have the assistance of all the nations. On the whole, looked at from a practical point of view, an amended Tariff in China is one in which there is virtual accord amongst the nations having trading interests. Any difficulty has been China's

own deliberate invention, and the stumbling blocks in the way of a vastly increased revenue are the result of the crooked and dishonest machinations of discredited statesmen like LI HUNG-CHANG and his associates.

## THE TELEGRAPH COMPANY'S GREY GIFT.

(Daily Press, 7th March.)

There are cases where liberality ceases to be a virtue and descends to the ordinary level of utility. An instance is shown in the case of the telegraph companies in the Far East. The companies came forward at a time when the commercial issue was doubtful, and nobly accepted and carried out the task of linking the Empire, and—all honour to them—they have succeeded as they deserved, and have won a substantial reward. A few figures from the report will show how remarkable has been the advance. During the first half of 1898, gross earnings of the Eastern Extension lines were £277,280; in the corresponding period of 1899 they advanced 17 per cent. to £324,360. The net income was no less than £180,000. Besides this the Company had a reserve of £1,200,000, of which upwards of a million had been invested, there being a further interest accruing from this of £25,000 a year. The Eastern Extension Company was not alone in the matter of prosperity. At the same time the Brazilian Cable Company showed a gross income for the same half-year of £119,000, against working expenses £22,000, and this Company likewise had upwards of a million (£1,016,000) of a reserve, £754,000 being actual money invested. Cable companies may then be said to have got over the first and most difficult portion of their lives, and may now be looked upon not as speculative bodies but as sound investments, from the magnitude of their operations and the public interests they subserve entering into the region of public trusts. The Eastern Extension Company received in subsidies from the Australian Colonies during the half-year £18,300, and this of course still more plainly indicates its position with regard to the Empire. The Company, it is satisfactory to find, have, in conjunction with the Eastern Telegraph Company, in addition to their new cable to the Cape, made a proposition to the Australian Colonies to extend that cable to Perth and Adelaide free of any subsidy, and have further engaged to reduce charges to Australia to 4s. per word, with the eventual aim of reducing the tariff to 2s. 6d. on a sliding scale as the traffic improves. So far we have nothing but congratulations to offer; the Company has again come to the assistance of the Empire at a time when it is sorely needed, and has taken its theme in the laying of a new line to the Cape. In addition to this it has offered to supply an important link in the scheme of British cables round the world, by duplicating with a deep sea cable, in waters where British naval supremacy has been ever in the ascendant, our communications with our Australasian dependencies. It is not for us, in these circumstances, to pry too narrowly into the reasons that have conduced towards this magnificent offer of the Eastern Extension Company, and we would willingly refrain, but that there are circumstances connected with the affair which seem to point to other and less worthy motives as being those which really actuated the Company. It is not many months since this company, which here comes forward not only to lay a cable across the Southern Ocean, but in a fit of magnanimity offers to take on its own shoulders all



the responsibility, and even to reduce to reasonable limits its tariff, informed the British public that it could not afford to lower its tariff and would not be coerced into doing so. Whence this change of face? It is unfortunately too plain. Less than a year ago the Eastern Extension thought it had a monopoly of the communications with the Far East and Australia, and, when certain obligations were spoken of and the injury to British interests and British trade were pointed out, made a reply which scarcely rose to the level of ordinary courtesy. It held certain concessions, it informed us, which prevented any encroachments on its territory, and it could not afford to make any reductions whatever. The question of Imperial interests it did not deign to take into consideration. Pride, the old philosopher told us, cometh before a fall; at all events the Colonies of Canada and Australia were desirous, in view of the approaching federation of the latter, to have some more certain and direct means of telegraphic communication than the Eastern and Eastern Extension Companies were willing to grant them. Their approaches to the representatives of the companies were met by an unbending *non possumus*, and no hope of any amendment was held forth. In the circumstances, the Colonies came to the wise resolve of conferring amongst themselves, and the scheme of a Pacific cable recommended itself. The colonies were not bound by any engagements to the Eastern Companies, and they, after a good deal of trouble, succeeded in proving to the Home Government the advantages to the Empire of such a line. But the Eastern companies had, unfortunately, some political influence; at all events the Home Government commenced to see objections to meeting the Colonies in the way indicated and did its best to shuffle out of its engagements. The universal protest of the Colonies concerned, and of the Far East generally, forced the hands of the Government, and it was arranged that the Home Government, in conjunction with Canada and Australia, should themselves undertake the line. Matters were becoming serious and the Eastern Extension Company had to look to its laurels. Apparently, on a hint from headquarters, it changed, by a sudden conversion, its tactics. If it could not destroy by a front attack the contemplated Pacific cable, it would, by a side wind, accomplish the same end. Someone proposed a network of intersecting British cables all round the world, and no one could fail to see the advantage of such a network. It would however have been fatal to all such monopolies as the Eastern Extension claimed, and matters were serious. The effect was a remarkable conversion—one of the most remarkable of the day. The Company which could not afford a reduction of a penny on its tariffs by its present lines, suddenly discovered that it could lay a new deep-sea cable without extra charge across the Southern Ocean, and even more than this, found that it could make it pay at a reduction of nearly fifty per cent. in its tariff. All the arguments which had been adduced to prove the feasibility of a reduction met with confirmation in this most unexpected quarter. But we have to learn more from the new action of the companies. It is more than ever evident that there are the seeds of a future success in the proposed Pacific Cable. The Eastern Extension's offer is the surest proof of this. If there were not the possibilities of a brilliant success, we may ask why the Eastern Company should spend at least a million sterling to burke the scheme? This question remains unanswered. But there is even more to be learned. Our

tariff to China is, as we know to our cost, almost prohibitive, and commercially and politically we suffer in consequence. An independent line to Australia is likely to be followed by an independent line to China, and it is apparently to strangle this that the concessions to Australia have been dangled in the public eye. We may well apply to ourselves the old caution, *timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*.

#### AUSTRALIA AND THE EMPIRE.

(Daily Press, 5th March.)

Not the least interesting and important event of the nineteenth century will doubtless be recorded in history as the birth of the Australian nation. The national delegates to present the case to the Imperial Parliament have already been appointed, and by no means the least striking feature in the Queen's Speech at the opening of the present session was the announcement that, amongst the other measures to be brought forward, would be the formal acceptance of the Federation as an accomplished fact. Seldom has the world witnessed so fortunate a birth. Australia has almost realised the myth of the birth of Minerva springing all-armed from the brain of Jupiter. Like other great nations Australia has had her baptism of blood; but that blood has been shed, not, as in other cases, in internal struggles, but in opposing, side by side with the mother country, the enemies of both. It is singularly appropriate that almost the last act of the century should be devoted to the consolidation of Australia, and that she should begin the twentieth as a young and lusty nation, proud of her vigour and able to hold up her head without a stain amongst the peoples of the world. Nothing has been more conspicuous in the early part of the century than the rapid while steady growth of England's Colonial system, and nothing has proved so conspicuously the aptitude of the race for self-government. In 1800 New South Wales was just twelve years old. It was the dumping ground of those lawless characters whom the home country did not desire to hold, and whose previous asylum in North America had been rendered impossible by the separation of the United States. It was, perhaps, not a good beginning, yet it was at the moment the only beginning possible. Australia, a hundred years ago, did not present itself as a likely field for voluntary immigration, and the possibilities are that, if not preceded by some step on the part of the government, the people of the British isles would never have found a practicable nucleus of a colony. It was no slight enterprise to found a colony in unknown seas, at the other side of the world, and in a savage soil. The first settlers required to be protected, and this at a distance of nearly twelve months' journey from home; and unless the government had gone first this was out of the question. The magnificent harbours at what we now call Sydney determined the first site, but it was not for well nigh half a century that any signs of advance were apparent. The discovery of rich deposits of alluvial gold, indeed, was the first inducement to colonisation on any large scale, and this was soon followed by the partition of New South Wales, and the formation of the colony of Victoria. The age for decision had come. The vast island of Australia seemed too large for a single administration and the colonies of Queensland, South Australia, West Australia and Tasmania, each spreading from a single centre and having its own peculiarities, followed. The colonies even divided were found to large to manage from London, and

one by one were granted the right of self-government, and it is both curious and instructive to notice the different lines on which each developed. The whole were fortunate in having a common name, and each, as well as in a wide sense being British, had the inestimable advantage of being *par excellence* Australian. It is curious to observe that neither the home country, nor its first offshoot in America has succeeded in evolving a national name. The "United Kingdom," is as artificial and inappropriate a designation for a great nation, as the "United States." In forming the Dominion the Canadians were happy in being able to extend the name of the leading province over the entirety, but the Australians have found a name ready-made, and already the race has evolved a distinctive character of its own, which, though fundamentally English, of sterling worth and purity, is yet distinct from either the home Englishman or the Canadian. Still, without, there were differences which sprang up between the Colonies which though they differed less amongst themselves than any did from the ordinary home-bred Englishman, still were becoming of importance. New South Wales was in many respects different from Victoria, and the man of Sydney reasoned on different lines from him of Melbourne. Queensland was still distinct from either, and the Tasmanian and the South Australian again had slightly differing characteristics. These might have grown, and indeed did offer some difficulties and the way of complete federation. It is to be trusted that these all have now agreed to sink their peculiarities in the general well being, and it may be hoped that the first year of the Twentieth Century will see the new nation spring forth armed *cap-a-pis* and a worthy member of the New British Empire.

#### PORTUGAL AND THE CASE OF KING LIEN-SHAN.

(Daily Press, 3rd March.)

As the result of an interview with Senhor A. G. ROMANO, the Portuguese Consul General, we have now some additional information as to how matters stand with KING LIEN-SHAN at Macao. The arrest was made, as we stated, on the 24th February; the charge was one of embezzlement while KING was in control of funds of the Imperial Chinese Telegraphs (Shanghai Branch). The Portuguese authorities, at the request of the Chinese Government, detained KING, who has been committed to Monte Fort, and not to the common jail. This detention must continue until the Portuguese home Government has sent its instructions and also until the arrival of the documents from the Chinese Government to prove the prisoner's guilt. The trial will then be held. We are assured by Senhor ROMANO that, if it is discovered that the embezzlement charge is merely a blind, contrived by the Chinese with the view of getting this member of the Reform Party into their hands and executing him, KING stands in no danger whatever; Portugal does not recognize extradition for political offences, and nothing will remain but the liberation of an innocent man. If, on the other hand, it should be satisfactorily proved by the representatives of the Chinese Government that KING actually left Shanghai while in possession of Telegraph Service funds, Portugal will only hand him over to the Chinese on the condition that they guarantee not to inflict a death penalty. As Senhor ROMANO points out, Portugal does not recognize the death penalty, and even in



the case of the extradition of a notorious pirate would exact the same condition before surrendering him into Chinese hands. So far, we may admit that the assurance given is quite satisfactory where Portugal is concerned. But what of the Chinese side of question? Has China been noted for faithfulness to her word in such cases as these? The fact is no trust can be put in the good faith of her officials. This has been proved over and over again. And under the present regime of the Empress Dowager and her advisers such trust cannot even be dreamt of. The bloodthirsty new Secret Edict to the Viceroys and Governors, of which we publish a telegraphic abstract on this page, shows how reformers are being treated everywhere else. Why should we imagine that an exception is to be made in this case, when we know that the Empress was moved to fury by the petition to her nephew, the hapless Emperor? KING LIEN-SHAN is a reformer. It is enough.

The Portuguese, we are told,—and we do not for a moment doubt Senhor ROMANO's courteous assurances—will never give up KING LIEN-SHAN to the mere political vengeance of the Empress. Then they must be prepared to release him, for the criminal charge, even were then the slightest truth in it, is only too plainly a cloak for the real desire. When the trial begins the Chinese must show their hand, and the strength of their cards will be awaited with curiosity. May we hope for an open court? The matter is one affecting more than the honesty of a Telegraph superintendent; it involves the whole question of international policy as regards China. It is decidedly an unfortunate coincidence that at this very moment telegraphic communication with Macao has broken down.

### THE CHINESE OPPOSITION TO THE NEW ORDINANCE.

(Daily Press, 6th March.)

The Chinese are exhibiting much opposition to the new Ordinance which demands larger cubicle space in native houses. As was anticipated when the Ordinance was discussed in Council previous to its being passed, the Chinese are bound to feel its effects most severely, especially the labouring classes. The object of the Ordinance is to prevent the spread of plague of which the present overcrowding of cubicles is thought to be chief cause. Consequently the Chinese poorer classes will have to seek new dwelling-places, and the landlords, to maintain their income, will increase the rents of their property. Instead of the Chinese partitioning, as at present, their rooms into a series of compartments, this sub-dividing is restricted by the new Ordinance and only a specified number of people are allowed to occupy a certain area. Hence the opposition. With the introduction of the "Cockloft Regulation," and widening of air spaces, etc., to follow, over ninety per cent. of the houses of Hongkong will be affected. So emphatic has been the opposition of the Chinese to the enforcement of the present regulations, that the Sanitary Board Officers have had to suspend any attempts at enforcement since the 1st inst., and the matter, we believe, to be seriously considered at a special meeting to be held to-day either by the Council, or by a committee appointed to consider the matter. Practically, therefore, the operation of the new Ordinance (or the already legalised regulations thereof) is in abeyance through Native opposition.

It is stated that the Japanese Government has under consideration a plan for inflicting capital punishment by means of suffocation. An air tight chamber is to be constructed, the air in which can be exhausted and thus cause almost painless and instantaneous death in about a minute. Experiments are now being made in Europe with this new death chamber. It must be confessed that this method of execution does not sound a very painless one.

### HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On the 6th instant a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (SIR HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

The Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. A. W. BREWIN.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

#### PAPER.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol for 1899.

#### FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 7 and 8, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY brought up the report of Finance Committee (No. 1) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

#### QUESTIONS.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD had given notice of the following questions:—

(1) Will the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary inform the Council whether any report was made by the late Acting Attorney General on Ordinance No. 40 of 1899, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the Summoning of Chinese before the Registrar General," and on my Protest in connection with the said Ordinance, and if so, will the Government lay a copy of such reports on the table, and if not, why not?

(2) Will the Honourable the Director of Public Works inform the Council whether it is still the intention of the Government to carry out the original plans for the improvement of the grounds in the Wong-Nei-Chong Valley by diverting the course of the stream and completing the filling in and levelling of the Bowrington end so as to make one recreation ground extending from side to side of the Valley, and if not, what are the reasons for further delaying the completion of the work?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied to the second question as follows:—Beyond the objects and reasons for the Bill as printed, no report of the Laos offices can be laid on the table, such reports and minutes being confidential.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY replied to the first question as follows:—It was found necessary to postpone this work for a time, owing to other more pressing claims. If funds are available a vote will be submitted to the Council for the work this year; the work has not been lost sight of.

#### NATURALISATION.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance for the naturalisation of Capitoline Joao Xavier, and a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the naturalisation of Fook Sik, alias Fook Yik Pang, were read a first time.

The Bill entitled An Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Wan Kam Tsung, alias Wan Tsing Kai, alias Wan Ming Kap, was read a second time.

The Bill passed through the committee stage, and was read a third time and passed.

#### THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the honour to move the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the

Post Office Ordinance, 1887. Since the Bill was read a first time I have had the opportunity of considering it more fully, and I have come to the conclusion that the second section as it stands in the Bill is unnecessary, because it appears that the Governor already has power to make regulations for the performance of the duties of any Government officer. But there was another matter which was not put in the Bill as read a first time and which I consider should have been put in, and when the Bill is in committee I shall move the substitution of a differently worded section for section 2. The section which I propose to substitute provides a remedy for cases where persons open unpaid or insufficiently paid correspondence and then, having seen what they require, hand it back, saying they won't have it or pay for it, and it provides a remedy against people who send unpaid letters which are refused and returned. Sub-sections 4 and 5 of section 3 have been in force for some time in the Straits Settlements. When this Bill is passed the law of the colony in this respect will be precisely the same as in the Straits Settlements, except in one particular.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The Council went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.—The following section was substituted for clause 2:— "In all cases in which either no postage or insufficient postage on correspondence shall have been paid by the sender double such postage or double the deficiency in such postage shall be paid by the person to whom the correspondence is addressed on the delivery thereof to him; but if the correspondence be refused, or the party to whom it is addressed shall be dead, or cannot be found, the writer or sender shall pay double such postage or double the deficiency of postage. Any sum of money payable under the provisions of this section may be recovered at the suit of the Postmaster General."

The Bill passed through the committee stage and the Council resumed.

#### THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—I have the honour to move the second reading of the Bill, entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1887. This is a very short Bill and contains only two clauses. Taking clause 3 first I would point out that the only difference between that clause and the law as it is at the present time is that it will enable such to be brought by the Medical Officer of Health or by such other official as the Board might see fit to depute. At present this can only be done by the Secretary of the Board under Section 84. The reason of that alteration is this: when a public official, such as the Secretary of the Board, attends court he is able to conduct the case in person because he is the prosecutor; but if any other official went down, he might be objected to on the ground that he was not the prosecutor. As regards section 2 for the institution of proceedings against any person contravening any bye-law made under Section 3 of No. 24 of 1887 without the previous issue by the Sanitary Board of any notice to the offender. This is necessary, for although notice of what is required to be done should properly be given in cases of nuisances under Section 18, it is absurd to require this in cases of an infringement of the bye-law relating to lime-washing. The offender knows perfectly well what is required of him, namely to white-wash his premises. To require a notice to be served to tell him what to do in order to comply with the law is to require an enormous waste of energy and to prevent the enforcement of the law. The result of requiring notice is that not one in seven of the houses which require to be white-washed comply with the law within the proper time, and then the owners do not obey the law until a formal notice is served upon them.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded. The Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I rise to offer my strongest opposition to this Bill. I am not so much opposed to section 3, but as regards section 2 it will, if passed, wrought much hardship on the general community of Hongkong and especially on the Chinese. It is well-known to everybody that there are no laws in this Colony more complicated and difficult to understand and remember than the laws relating to sanitation



and building. The more so since a large number of bye-laws have been made to carry out the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance—in itself a formidable Ordinance for anyone to understand. There must be a large number of people who do not comply with the law, though quite unintentionally. They do not know they are doing wrong, and the object of giving them notice is to remind them that they have to do certain things to comply with the law. Of course I am quite willing to admit the general principle that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but law-givers in any country do not care to harass the people unnecessarily, and ample warning is generally given. Section 2 has been introduced because there was some delay in carrying out certain bye-laws made under section 13 of the Public Health Ordinance. Under that section the Sanitary Board have power to make, and, when made, to alter, amend, or revoke bye-laws with regard to the proper construction, trapping, ventilating, and maintenance of private house-drains, etc., the provision and proper construction of dust boxes in private premises, etc. Section 29 of the present Bill said:—"Notwithstanding the provisions of section 19 of the Public Health Ordinance, 1887 (No. 24 of 1887), it shall be lawful for the Sanitary Board, in its discretion, to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate against any person contravening any bye-law duly made under section 13 of each Ordinance, without previously issuing a notice to the offender stating what is required to be done to carry out the provisions of such bye-law, and upon conviction for a contravention of any such bye-law the Magistrate may impose a penalty not exceeding twenty-five dollars." I took part in the discussion when section 19 was before the Council, and we all unanimously agreed that we could and should get the Chinese and the general public to comply with the law with a little trouble, without any prosecution. I think we should continue to give the notices, and then if the notices are without effect the maximum punishment should be inflicted. A reasonable notice, say of 48 hours as regards lime-washing, is all that is required, but as regards the construction of drains a longer notice is of course necessary.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS endorsed the sentiments of the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think the honourable member opposite is under a misapprehension. The whole pith of his remarks would seem to show that he thinks the tenants will have to lime-wash, whereas it is the landlords. He has told us that there is no necessity for giving notice in connection with the bye law 8 made under sub-section 13 as to the proper construction, etc., of house drains. These are things, he tells us, that every body ought to know. I ask, is it a great deal to ask of the landlords of the colony to bear in mind the particular months within which they have to have their premises white-washed?

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai said that the Acting Colonial Secretary had misquoted him. He said just the opposite.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I must have misunderstood the hon. member. If it was a question of tenants there might be something in what the honourable member had said, but where it is a question of landlords I fail to see the force of his remarks, and I would further point out that the law as it stands is utterly absurd. This section 13 refers to various matters, including such things as the prevention of the manufacture or sales of unsound, adulterated, or unwholesome food. If a Inspector finds some rotten meat in the market is he to give a man seven days' notice to destroy it? Then again, it includes the manufacture and sale of poisons and the sale of unsound and adulterated drugs, also the notifying of infectious diseases. If a man fails to report a case of plague the Sanitary Board cannot under the law as it stands successfully prosecute until they have given seven days' notice. I say seven days' notice because the Board have consulted the law officers of the Crown and have been advised that reasonable notice means at least seven days' notice. The honourable member seems to think that 24 hours' notice would be sufficient for white-washing, but the Board has been advised to the contrary, and in all cases the Board has been obliged to give seven days' notice.

The result is that at the beginning of every lime-washing season the Board is careful to give notice reminding landlords that it is their duty within a given time to have their premises lime-washed. Then the inspectors go round and report that such and such houses have not been lime-washed. Then the Board have to issue notices, under section 19, and if these have no effect the prosecution follows. I can assure the Council that as the law stands it is utterly impossible to carry the lime-washing regulations out. The Board do not recommend an alteration of the law without good reason. If they could, without amending the law, they would gladly do so; but things have come to a deadlock, and that is the reason why the Board asked the Government to institute this legislation.

On the motion for the second reading being put to the vote it was carried, though the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, the Hon. Wei A. Yuk, the Hon. C. P. Chater, and the Hon. E. R. Belilios voted against.

The Bill was then considered at some length in committee. The Attorney General had recommended that the secretary of the Sanitary Board, or such other officer as the Board may depute, should institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate, but on His Excellency's suggestion, it was decided to add a proviso to the effect that any person so deputed should first obtain the sanction of the Medical Officer of Health or the Secretary before instituting such proceedings.

The Bill passed through the committee and the council resumed.

#### CERTIFICATES FOR CHINESE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed and the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded a motion to the effect that the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorize the imposition of fees for the issue by the Government of Hongkong of certain certificates to certain Chinese be read a second time.

This was carried and the Bill was then taken through the committee stage.

THE EXTENSION TO TUNG WA HOSPITAL. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in moving the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for the establishment of a Hospital for infectious diseases in connection with the Tung Wa Hospital, explained that the Bill provided that the authorities of the Tung Wa Hospital should have similar powers with regard to the new branch hospital for infectious diseases as they already possessed as regards the present Tung Wa Hospital, and should have also similar responsibilities. The Bill also provided that the Government should be indemnified from any claim made against them in respect of the erection and maintenance of the infectious diseases branch of the Hospital. He did not anticipate that any such claim would be made, but it was well to confer the power of giving the indemnity which the Hospital authorities were willing to give if able to do so.

The Council adjourned until Thursday.

#### MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held after the Council Meeting, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding, when the following votes were agreed to:—

A sum of \$3,600, being compensation to the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, for the loss of certain cattle at "Sassoon's Villa."

A sum of \$1,000 to meet the expenditure for extending the telephone line in the New Territory.

The CHAIRMAN explained as to the first vote that some cattle were accidentally burned to death while the shed was being disinfected by an officer of the Sanitary Board, and as to the second that the line was to run to Starine Inlet.

This was all the business.

On the 8th inst. a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.).

His EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

The Hon. F. H. MAC, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A. YUK.

Hon. A. W. BREWIN.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

#### PAPERS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the headmaster of Queen's College and of the examiners appointed by the Governing Body for 1899 and the report of the Captain Superintendent of Police for 1899.

#### FINANCIAL.

The ACTING ATTORNEY laid on the table Financial Minute No. 9 and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 2) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

#### NATURALISATION.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Capitoline Joao Xavier and a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Foo Sik, alias Foo Yik Pang, were read a third time and passed.

#### THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:—

The Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend the Post Office Ordinance, 1887.

The Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1887.

The Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorize the imposition of fees for the issue by the Government of Hongkong of certain certificates to certain Chinese.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—With reference to these Bills, I would suggest that in future the course which was previously adopted be followed, and that is that, when important alterations are made in a Bill at a previous meeting of the Council, copies of the Bill as amended should be sent to members of the Council a day or two before the next meeting of the Council at which the Bill is to be finally passed, and at which it comes up for the third reading. This used to be the custom, and it is a very good custom.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—I asked the Attorney-General about this, because the usual course is that when amended the Bill is referred to the Attorney-General, who goes over it to see that the amendments are made. The custom referred to by the honourable member shall be observed in future.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The only Bill in connection with which any alterations not then in print before the Council were made was the Public Health Ordinance, and the amendments suggested in Council were incorporated in the Bill as read a third time. Possibly the reason the Bill as amended was not sent out on this occasion was that it is such a very short time since the last meeting of the Council, and it is some times very difficult to get them printed in time.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR asked members of the Standing Law Committee to remain after the meeting of the Finance Committee, as the Attorney-General was very anxious to consult with them as to the Land Court Bill.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD suggested that before the Bill was brought before the Council the members should have at least three days in which to go carefully through it.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR said he understood that the Bill was almost ready and would be sent out at once. So he thought the members would have ample time to go through it.

The Council then adjourned until Thursday next.

#### MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

##### THE SALARIES' QUESTION.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council meeting, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding.



The CHAIRMAN said—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$26,189 to defray during the current year the increases in salaries of Government Officials sanctioned in the Secretary of State's Despatch No. 280 of 8th December, 1899.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—I beg to ask that the consideration of this vote should be postponed for at least a fortnight. The financial minute which has just been read was received by the unofficial members late last evening and we have not had time to go into the matter as thoroughly as we should like. Personally I have no objection to the vote, but I should like to have a good deal more information before the vote is passed. I should like to know whether any other officers of the Government have asked for increases, and if so who they are and what has become of their application such and what reasons they have given for asking for increases before this vote is finally passed by the Council. The reasons given in the papers for the increase, I think, are very good, but they are equally applicable to the other civil servants as they are to the officers who are going to be affected by this vote. Therefore I think the unofficial members would like to have the full facts before them before they are prepared to vote on the matter.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I quite support, sir, what has been said. If the reasons given in support of this increase to certain heads and assistant heads of departments are applicable to them, I maintain that they are still more applicable to the clerical staff in the civil service, and that it is not equitable that the heads and assistant heads should receive increases whilst the juniors and clerical staff should not participate in an increase which perhaps they are more entitled to than the heads and assistant heads.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—It seems to me what we call a dog-in-the-manger policy to deprive the heads and assistant heads of increases which are admitted to be justifiable because others have not got them.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not know whether honourable members have carefully read the correspondence which was laid on the table.—I forget the exact date—a fortnight ago or a month ago—with reference to this matter. You will observe from that that, under date 23rd July, 1899, His Excellency the Governor forwarded a memorial from certain members of the Hongkong Civil Service on the subject of the inadequacy of the salaries of public servants. That was a general representation made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Practically the reply to that is contained in despatch No. 280. I do not think there is any objection, if you wish it, to postpone the consideration of this financial minute, especially as it only reached you at a late hour; but I draw your attention to the correspondence. It is not a question of certain members asking for increases of salaries and of distinctions having been made between the applicants. If you carefully read this correspondence I do not think very much more can be laid before you. You see the Secretary of State for the Colonies has practically decided the question for himself.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—That may be the case, but we have to give our vote one way or another.

The CHAIRMAN—I merely mentioned it.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—Some of them have not got an increase and they want to deprive others. Those who have not got an increase would have a better excuse for applying after this vote is passed.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—I said that the financial minute was received by the unofficial members late yesterday afternoon and we have not had sufficient time to go over it carefully. We should like to consider also whether any other officers in the Government service have made similar applications for increases of salaries and if so who they are and what reasons do they give for the application. I for one have absolutely no objection to the vote before us, but it is best to make one job of the whole matter.

The CHAIRMAN—As I said, there is no objection to a postponement. I would only ask your attention to the printed correspondence in the meantime. The Council meets this day week; do you wish for a longer postponement than a week.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—I should say a fortnight.

The CHAIRMAN observed that there were officers going on leave to England and they would like the matter settled.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—The postponement would not affect them, because the Secretary of State for the Colonies has sanctioned the increases from the beginning of this year. Therefore a fortnight sooner or later does not matter.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not see much harm in the matter being postponed for a fortnight.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I wish just to express my regret that we should have been accused of adopting dog-in-the-manger policy on this question. I consider that that remark was entirely uncalled for, especially coming from the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer. My object in supporting the senior unofficial member is to endeavour to see that justice and fair dealing is done to the other civil servants.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not think the honourable the Colonial Treasurer meant anything personal. He made use of the expression as a mere colloquialism. There is no more business before the Committee.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I am sorry, sir, to see that the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer has not seen fit to withdraw the unwarranted expression.

This was all the business.

### THE ANTI-FOOTBINDING MOVEMENT.

On March 1st the wires brought the glad news from Ladysmith, but St. David may henceforth be considered not only as the Patron Saint of Welshmen but of Chinese women, for on that day, for the first time, they were invited within the much-dreaded portals of Government House. The Organising Secretary of the Natural Feet Society (Tien Tsu Hui) of China was to advocate its merits. Some people thought this would deter rather than attract Chinese ladies, especially those of bound feet. Some people thought they would in any case be too frightened to come to Government House, so Chinese gentlemen were invited to escort the ladies and their families, and to be themselves entertained in another room by Lord Suddale. 'Will 20 come?' was the question of the morning. 'Oh, I think 50,' and when over 100 chairs were seen drawn up in the great ball-room some hearts sank at the prospect of how empty they soon would look. Only 70 invitations even had been sent out. But, as four o'clock drew near, the approach to Government House presented a curious spectacle, for from all the entrances Chinese women were to be seen hobbling painfully onwards! Some fifty extra chairs had to be brought in. Then appeared a school of possibly 200 little Chinese girls who, very much to their surprise, were requested to seat themselves on the edge of the platform, and in large groups on either side of the speaker's table, a living demonstration of those the meeting was to help, fat and rosy with pretty little rounded feet for the most part, but with one or two pointed disortions among them. Amahs had been requested to stand and some 70 or 80 Chinese women were now to be seen standing down either side of the ball-room when Lady Blake entered and welcomed her guests. Mrs. Ho Tung read aloud the Society's pledge. 'In my own family and outside I wish to do what I can to get rid of this cruel custom, &c.,' and after Mrs. Archibald Little had finished speaking there was a crowd pressing round the table to sign on the rolls in spite of the counter-attraction of books being given away elsewhere and the drawing-room fast filling up with elegantly-clad Chinese ladies enjoying tea and cakes with Lady and Miss Blake and the foreign ladies present; Mrs. Hoars chatting with them in Mandarin. Mrs. Glover (who speaks like a native); Miss Johnston and Miss Eyre discoursing in Cantonese; Mrs. Bruce and other English ladies rather admiring the soft hues of the ladies' dresses, their complicated hair-dressing, and their embroideries, and deciding that foreign ladies met them at a disadvantage in rough morning frocks, for the Chinese ladies were in full dress.

Meanwhile the pressure round the table in the ball-room was increasing; the little girls of the school had more than once been told they were too small to have books, and ought to make room for their elders, but the clever things were actually holding out their money and writing their own names. After that Associates' cards could not be refused them, and some 47 were enrolled. The shock to the rich Hongkong ladies' minds must not be forgotten when they found only 10 cash, or 1 cent each, was asked from them for the privilege of joining the Tien Tsu Hui. This is the sum that has been fixed as a proof of sincerity, that would suit the millions of China, and the richer ladies compromised by paying for the servant as well as themselves, or sometimes for some eager children who had not brought any cash. The wish is, at the end of 1900, to publish to the remotest districts of the vast Empire how many adherents in the various great cities there are opposed to the binding, and thus give more courage to mothers among a wholly bound population not to bind their children's feet by thinking how many there are unbound elsewhere, and we understand that the Hon. Secretary's eager hope is to number some 5,000 adherents in Hongkong, either as annual subscribers of one dollar, life members who have given ten dollars down, or associates who have given 10 cash, as a proof that they really mean it when they say 'both in my own house and outside,' &c. This last class obviously is to consist of Chinese only, the two former of foreigners and Chinese, and we understand that Miss Blake, having kindly consented to understand the duties of Hon. Secretary of the branch of the Hongkong Tien Tsu Hui, will now be happy to receive contributions and enrol names.

This seems to be the first time that any Governor or his family have shown kindly solicitude as to the condition of the Chinese woman subjects of our Queen in Hongkong, and the ladies evidently felt quite assured of the friendly feeling entertained towards them, and after the first few minutes showed no signs of the trepidation or confusion that might be expected, but simply dignified Chinese good breeding. St. David's meeting was the largest meeting of Chinese ladies yet seen, even surpassing in numbers the ever memorable Chinese party given by ten Chinese ladies to inaugurate the Schools for the higher education of Chinese girls, in which Mr. King Lien-Shan, now in danger of his life, but for the moment safe in the Fortress of Macao, has been from the first the prime mover.

If the Heads of the various Missions here—Church of England, Roman Catholic and Nonconformist—will enroll as many of their people as are desirous to join the Tien Tsu Hui, it will greatly facilitate the work of the Hon. Secretary.—Communicated.

### A NEW IMPERIAL DECREE.

We take the accompanying translation from *The North China Daily News*:—

27th February.

(1) The Grand Secretary K'au Kang (Manchu) having been this day ordered out on a secret mission of investigation, his post of Chancellor of the Hsulin Academy is hereby given *pro tem.* to Duke Ch'ung Yi (father-in-law of the late Emperor Tung Chih, and now Grand Preceptor of P'u Chün, Heir-Apparent to the Throne).

(2) For the same reason the Grand Secretary K'au Kang's post of Captain General of the Blue Banner Banner Corps is hereby temporarily given to Tsai Hsün, Prince Chuang, 1st Order.

[Note:—The secret mission above noted is supposed to refer to charges of pollution against prominent members of the Board of Works superintending the enlargement and decoration of the "Myriad Ages" Mausoleum, which is destined to be the Empress Dowager's last resting-place, and upon which over five million taels have already been expended.—Translator.]

A Japanese paper learns that an agreement has been concluded between Messrs. Takeyama & Co., of Moji, and a Chinese Steamship Company in China for the supply to the Chinese company of 100,000 tons of Japanese coal in monthly instalments, commencing in this month.



## DEPARTURE OF CAPT. HASTINGS, POSTMASTER GENERAL.

We have never been able to feel with more confidence that we were voicing the unanimous opinion of the public of Hongkong then when we say that no official of this Colony has ever better earned a holiday than Captain Hastings, R.N., Postmaster-General, who left on the 7th inst. on a year's furlough. Captain Hastings arrived in 1890 to fill the post of Assistant Harbour Master, and, although there was of course no prejudice against the man personally, there was a strong conviction on the part of the public that the post was a sinecure or that it made a sinecure for someone else. Taxpayers do not have over kindly feelings at the sight of evidence that their money is being wasted, and therefore, as was inevitable, Captain Hastings was handicapped from the first. In 1892, there being really no work for him to do at the Harbour Office, our present Postmaster-General was transferred to the Magistracy. Here again he had to fight against long odds. He was not a trained lawyer nor could he understand the Cantonese language, and there was a strong public feeling, born of previous experience, that one or both of these qualifications were required in the occupant of the police bench. The delays, and what may be rightly designated the frequent miscarriages of justice, which had gone on for some years, fully accounted for this feeling. Captain Hastings however soon proved that a well-balanced mind, a habit of discipline and ability to read character which enabled him to get quickly to the essential facts and to dispense with irrelevant evidence, were quite sufficient, and more than made up for his lack of legal and linguistic knowledge. Therefore he soon lived down the prejudice which was felt when he first took his seat on the bench, and we can safely say that no presiding in the dismal den in Arbutnot Road has ever given more satisfaction to either the public or the police. For a short time Captain Hastings acted as Superintendent of Police, and in that position also he gave universal satisfaction and earned the highest respect from the public as well as from the men under him. When he was appointed Postmaster-General he was already a tried man and, although the work of organizing and controlling the daily routine of a post office was hardly that for which his previous experience might be considered as having fitted him, great things were expected from his advent to the old building in Queen's Road, and great things have been realised, as all Hongkong residents know. Much remains to be done, but much has been accomplished, and that in spite of want of room and, what is much worse, in spite of an inadequate staff, insufficient both as to number and capacity, a large proportion being Portuguese and other boys from whom not much can reasonably be expected. When to that is added the great difficulty of eradicating abuses which had crept in during years of maladministration and which had become part of the system or want of system, too much credit cannot be given to Captain Hastings for the reformations he effected. It is much to be regretted that his health would not permit his remaining a year or so longer so that he and the public might have seen the reforms consolidated. The thanks of the community are also due to Captain Hastings for very valuable services rendered during the time of the plague epidemic. We hope he will enjoy his holiday, and that we shall see him back in perfect health. No official has been or ever will be more warmly welcomed than he will be.

Prior to his departure Captain Hastings was presented with the following address from the Post Office staff:—

General Post Office,  
Hongkong, March 7th, 1900.

Commander W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., Postmaster General, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,—We, the Staff of the General Post Office, Hongkong, beg leave to approach you on this, the eve of your departure for England, and to express our best wishes for a pleasant voyage home to Mrs. Hastings and yourself, and that we will be privileged shortly to hear of the complete restoration of your health.

We much regret the necessity that has caused you to take leave, and would assure you that your absence will be felt by us all, and that your return to the Head of this Department

benefitted from the much deserved change and rest in England, will be anticipated with much pleasure.—We are, Sir, Your obedient servants.  
(Signed by the whole staff.)

## HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS FIELD BATTERY.

The second shoot for the Belilios Cup took place on Sunday, 4th inst., at the Association Range, Kowloon, Gunner Pidgaon again heading the list. The following are the 10 best scores:—

|                     | 200 yds. | 400 yds. | 500 yds. | Handicap | Total. |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Gunner Pidgaon      | 29       | 30       | 34       | 4        | 97     |
| Sergt. Dr. Brown    | 27       | 33       | 30       | 6        | 96     |
| Gunner Lapsley      | 27       | 33       | 26       | 9        | 95     |
| Gunner Hance, J. H. | 28       | 30       | 29       | 6        | 93     |
| Gunner Bain, H. M.  | 22       | 28       | 22       | 21       | 93     |
| Drumr. Burgess      | 29       | 31       | 29       | 3        | 91     |
| Gunner Fisher       | 25       | 25       | 28       | 12       | 90     |
| Gunner Gray         | 30       | 31       | 23       | sc.      | 89     |
| Gunner Loureiro     | 21       | 26       | 20       | 21       | 88     |
| Gunner Stewart      | 25       | 31       | 31       | sc.      | 87     |

## FOOTBALL.

### THE SEMI-FINAL TIE—MARINE ENGINEERS V. G. CO. R.W.F.

A large number of spectators witnessed the semi-final association football match in the Hongkong Shield Competition on the 3rd instant, amongst whom were H.E. the Governor, and Miss Blake and Viscount Sui-dale. The competing teams were the Marine Engineers and G. Coy., Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

The match was the best yet seen in the competition, both teams being of equal merit, if anything the Engineers having the smartest individual players and the soldiers the best combination. Yet even this is not an adequate description, as frequently the individual play on the part of the members of the regimental team prevented their opponents from scoring, and if anything the Engineers surprised most of the onlookers who had witnessed their previous play, with their excellent passing. Throughout the whole game not a goal was scored by either side, and only rarely were either goals placed in jeopardy. The play was consequently in mid-field, the backs on both sides clearing without much effort. Had the soldiers kept closer on the ball and passed across instead of ahead, the result of the match might have been in their favour. At the conclusion of time the teams agreed to play another twenty minutes, and they did so without any result—the game ending without anything being scored on either side. The match on the whole was splendidly contested and some brilliant individual play was frequently noticeable. The goalkeeper for the soldiers saved several hot shots and was as cool and collected as his rival keeper was apparently the reverse—two decisions being given against the Engineers' custodian for running with the ball. Pownell, the centre-half back of the military team, was the best man on the field, and was the backbone and pivot of his team. With one exception all the soldiers were in excellent form, their weak member being the right full back, who constantly misjudged and gave the left back double work, which, however, he did well. The Engineers shaped very well and with more practice would probably prove the stronger team. The soldiers lost one or two chances in the latter part of the match through keeping too much on the defensive, their forwards getting little support from the halves. For sometime they played a man short, there being only four forwards. The match will have to be replayed, when another good game may be anticipated. The refereeing was not so satisfactory as it might have been, some obvious misjudgments being given against the soldiers on three occasions when in the vicinity of the Engineers' goal. These were evidently not seen by the Referee or his decisions would have been reversed; consequently the whistle should not have been blown. The whistle, however, was irritatingly in evidence all through the game, though the Referee undoubtedly did his work conscientiously.

## CRICKET.

### HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB V. THE GARRISON.

The Hongkong Cricket Club met a team representing the Garrison on Saturday the 3rd, and were beaten by 39 runs. Dr. Nimmo and Dr. Tuck batted first for the Club, and made a good stand, 49 being scored before the partnership was broken by Dr. Tuck being caught. Dr. Nimmo, however, was not disposed of until he had compiled 58. His was the fifth wicket to fall, and the score then stood at 85. The sixth wicket fell at 93, the seventh at 139, the eighth at 139, the ninth at 148, and the tenth at 152. The Garrison had four wickets down for 75, five for 131, six for 151, seven for 151, eight for 151, nine for 191, and ten for 191. Lee, of the Club, performing the hat trick. Scores:—

| HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.                      |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Dr. Nimmo, R.N., c Lewis, b Vallings        | 58 |
| Dr. Tuck, R.N., c Mulliken, b Letten        | 13 |
| J. W. Mounsey, c and b Preedy               | 3  |
| A. G. Ward, c Langhorne, b Vallings         | 1  |
| J. E. Lee, c Lewis, b Preedy                | 3  |
| J. A. Moreton, R.N., l.b.w., b Preedy       | 2  |
| H. Strong, R.M.L.I., c Johnson, b Langhorne | 25 |
| A. E. Wood, R.N., b Langhorne               | 26 |
| C. H. P. Hay, b Langhorne                   | 0  |
| H. M. C. Elliott, R.N., b Vallings          | 12 |
| W. Tomkinson, R.N., not out                 | 0  |
| Extras                                      | 10 |

Total ..... 152

| THE GARRISON.                             |    |
|-------------------------------------------|----|
| Capt. Langhorne, R.A. b Elliott           | 25 |
| Lt. Higson, R.W.F., b Elliott             | 20 |
| Lt. Mulliken, R.A., b Elliott             | 6  |
| Capt. Simonds, R.A., b Elliott            | 4  |
| Rev. G. R. Vallings, b Lee                | 42 |
| Lt. Johnson, R.W.F., b Ward               | 32 |
| Major Clarke, R.A.M.C., c Wood, b Elliott | 38 |
| Lt. Rotherham, R.W.F., b Lee              | 0  |
| Private Preedy, R.W.F., b Lee             | 0  |
| Lt. Lewis, R.A., not out                  | 10 |
| Br. Letten, R.A., b Elliott               | 0  |
| Extras                                    | 14 |

Total ..... 191

### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

| HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB. |       |       |        |      |          |
|------------------------|-------|-------|--------|------|----------|
| Overs.                 | Maid. | Runs. | Wides. | N.B. | Wickets. |
| Preedy                 | 17    | 7     | 46     | —    | 3        |
| Vallings               | 14.2  | 1     | 53     | —    | 3        |
| Letten                 | 4     | —     | 14     | —    | 1        |
| Higson                 | 6     | 1     | 24     | —    | —        |
| Langhorne              | 3     | 1     | 6      | —    | 3        |
| THE GARRISON.          |       |       |        |      |          |
| Elliott                | 22    | 1     | 77     | —    | 6        |
| Lee                    | 17    | 4     | 50     | —    | 3        |
| Nimmo                  | 4     | 1     | 12     | —    | —        |
| Strong                 | 3     | 1     | 18     | —    | —        |
| Ward                   | 3     | —     | 20     | —    | 1        |

## ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

### 9th CLUB RACE.

March 4th, 1900.

Course, twice round Kowloon Rock, Channel Rocks and Meyer's buoy, leaving all to starboard; 13 miles. The following boats started at 1 o'clock and 1.15.

A class, Maid Marian, Iris, Erica, Bonito, Gloria, and Doreen

B class, Meteor, Dart, Payne, Princess and Gazelle.

There was a strong ebb tide and scarcely any wind, which was from the west, at the start, and Bonito and Gloria drifted across the line and had to return. The other four in the A Class went away together, first one and then another getting a better puff then right up to Kowloon Rock, where a light wind from the south east caught them. Erica and the Maid were round first, but only a couple of lengths to the good Bonito had caught nearly up to the leading boats by the time they cleared the Rock, but had no luck in the beat up to the next mark, which was rounded by Iris about a minute in front of Doreen, with Maid Marian half a minute behind, Doreen, and Erica coming next, then Bonito, Gloria, still being some distance behind. In the free reach to Meyer's buoy, the Maid got into second place, and in nearing the buoy the leading boats ran into a flat calm, and the A class, together with Meteor, were all together near the buoy, when the easterly wind overtook them and the race practically started again. Maid Marian, Erica and Doreen, being on the inside track, got round the buoy and away with a good lead. The wind was fairly steady on the reach to the Kowloon Rock, which was rounded at



half minute intervals in the following order: Maid Marian, Erica, Doreen, Bonito, and a minute after Iris and Gloria, with Meteor close up; then came Dart, Payne, Gazelle and Princess, about ten minutes covering the lot. In the beat up in the light wind Bonito went very well, and was first round Channel Rocks at about 20 past three, the Maid being next, then Erica, Doreen, Meteor, Gloria and Iris, all in about 3½ minutes, Dart and the others, about 10 minutes after. The first fleet all closed up again at Meyer's buoy, but did not get becalmed this time. Erica, Doreen and Iris kept well over to the Kowloon side and did better than the others, and the line was crossed by the boats at the finish as follows:—

| A Class.    |    |    |    |        | Total to |
|-------------|----|----|----|--------|----------|
|             | H. | M. | S. | Marks. | date.    |
| Erica       | 4  | 17 | 1  | 10     | 14       |
| Doreen      | 4  | 17 | 29 | 4      | 18       |
| Iris        | 4  | 17 | 50 |        | 23       |
| Bonito      | 4  | 18 | 1  | 1      | 33½      |
| Gloria      | 4  | 18 | 3  |        | 0        |
| Maid Marian | 4  | 23 | 14 |        | 39       |
| B Class.    |    |    |    |        |          |
| Meteor      | 4  | 18 | 0  | 10     | 52       |
| Dart        | 4  | 37 | 26 | 4      | 53       |
| Payne       | 4  | 32 | 29 | 1      | 7        |
| Gazelle     | 4  | 48 | 1  |        | 1        |
| Princess    | 4  | 49 | 3  |        | 1        |
| Sybil       | 5  | 3  | 21 |        | 0        |

The Race for Mr. Mitchell's prizes will take place on March 11th. The course will be:—Channel Rocks, Stonecutters' Island and Markboat half way between Chungkue and Green Island, all to port, 15 miles. Start 1 p.m.

## HANDICAP.

|             | allow | minutes | seconds. |
|-------------|-------|---------|----------|
| Marjorie    |       |         |          |
| Bonito      |       |         |          |
| Maid Marian |       |         |          |
| Erica       | 2     |         | 30       |
| Iris        | 2     |         | 30       |
| Doreen      | 2     |         | 30       |
| Gloria      | 2     |         | 30       |
| Chanticleer | 2     |         | 30       |
| Meteor      | 2     |         | 30       |
| Active      | 4     |         | 45       |
| Thistle     | 9     |         | 30       |
| Sybil       | 9     |         | 30       |
| Dart        | 18    |         | 0        |
| Payne       | 18    |         | 0        |
| Princess    | 21    |         | 0        |
| Gazelle     | 31    |         | 0        |

### THE REPORT OF THE CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE FOR 1899.

The following is the second paragraph of the Captain Superintendent's Report:—

The total of all cases reported to the Police was 9,023 as against 10,596 in 1898, being a decrease of 1,573 or 17.43 per cent.

In the division of these cases into serious and minor offences, there appears an increase as compared with 1898 of 457 cases or 15.57 per cent. in the former and a decrease of 2,030 cases or 36.05 per cent. in the latter.

The increase as compared with 1898 in serious offences of 457 is shown as follows:—

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Murder                          | 5   |
| Robbery                         | 70  |
| Burglary or larceny in dwelling | 77  |
| Assault with intent to rob      | 1   |
| Piracy                          | 1   |
| Larceny                         | 308 |
| Felonies not already given      | 47  |

59

Deduct decrease in—

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Kidnapping          | 5  |
| Unlawful possession | 47 |

52

—

457

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Deducting murder                | 3  |
| Robbery                         | 42 |
| Burglary or larceny in dwelling | 7  |
| Kidnapping                      | 1  |
| Piracy                          | 1  |
| Unlawful possession             | 7  |
| Larceny                         | 48 |
| Felonies not already given      | 12 |

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the increase directly due to the New Territory. The increase in serious crime in the Old Territory as compared with 1898 was 336 cases or 11.44 per cent.

With regard to last year's robberies in the colony the Captain Superintendent says:—"The increase in robbery in the Old Territory over the figures for the years 1898 and 1897 is not satisfactory. I attribute it in a great measure to the disturbed condition of the neighbouring province, where robbery and piracy are rampant. It must also be remembered, however, that the Police Force has been very short of European Police during the year, and that a great number of the Indian and the Chinese Police doing duty in the Old Territory were recruits with little experience. It is, however, satisfactory to note that only one gang robbery was reported in the City of Victoria. It was alleged to have occurred in the Western District of the City, but was a doubtful report. I would also draw attention to the fact that, whereas thirty-four cases of robbery were reported in the New Territory up to the 30th September, only eight cases have been reported since that date."

Thirty-eight European recruits for our Police Force were engaged during 1899, three from the Plymouth Police, two from Edinburgh City Police, one an approved candidate for the Royal Irish Constabulary, twelve volunteers from the Royal Marines, and 19 obtained locally, viz., three from the Army, sixteen from the Mercantile Marine, and one who had purchased his discharge but re-enlisted after four months' absence. In connection with the policing of the New Territory, two Non-Commissioned Officers and 22 men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were enrolled as Special Constables, and one Non-Commissioned Officer and 11 men are still serving. There were also enlisted 125 Indians, 13 Chinese for the Land Force, 26 Chinese for the Water Police, besides 4 coxswains, 4 engineers and 4 stokers for launch work. "More Chinese for the Land Force would have been enlisted had they been obtainable," says the Captain Superintendent. "Recruiting for the Chinese Land Force, despite the recent increase of pay, is still backward, there being seven vacancies at the end of the year. It was expected that recruits would have been obtained from amongst the peasants in the New Territory, but with four exceptions the few who enlisted for the Land Force resigned before their periods of probation had expired. Drill and discipline appear to be peculiarly distasteful to Chinese in and around this Colony, and the constantly increasing rates of wages given by private employers of labour render the rates obtaining in the Police Force not sufficiently attractive."

### "THE MORNING STAR" COLLISION.

At the Harbour Office on the 7th instant, before Mr. Basil Taylor, Assistant Harbour Master, an enquiry was held into the circumstance connected with the collision between the steam-launch *Bertha* and the steam-launch *Morning Star*.

Chan Kau, master of the launch *Bertha*, said—On February 20th, at about 2 p.m., I was leaving Queen's Statue Wharf, and was about 450 feet from the end of Peddar's Wharf. The *Morning Star* ferry launch was then leaving Peddar's Wharf. On seeing her I continued my course, and she turned to starboard, striking me with her bows on the port side abreast of the engine room.

Wong Yung, master of the *Morning Star*, said—On leaving Peddar's Wharf I saw the *Bertha* on my starboard quarter. She overtook me and attempted to cross my bows, but in so doing my bows collided with her port side abreast the engine room nearly end on.

Tsang Kin, second master of the *Morning Star*, said—I was steering the *Morning Star* on the afternoon in question. The *Bertha* on leaving Queen's Statue Wharf, tried to cross, my bows while I was leaving Peddar's Wharf. I did not try to get out of her way. The collision took place about 100 feet from Peddar's wharf.

The certificate of the Master of the *Morning Star* was suspended for a month.

### THE WRECK OF THE AMERICAN LAUNCH "LEE PO."

#### THE CAPTAIN'S REPORT.

The following is the report (dated Foochow, March 1st) of Captain Augustus Skillen, master of the American steam-launch *Lee Po*, which was wrecked on the Pratas Shoals on the 24th ult:—

"W. T. Gracey, Esq., Vice-Consul in charge U.S. Consulate, Foochow.

"Sir,—I beg to report that on February the 23rd I left Hongkong, as master of the U.S. steam-launch *Lee Po*, bound for Manila, having no cargo.

"I experienced the usual N. E. monsoon cloudy weather, consequently did not get any observations for correcting the compass, the error of which was the cause of the vessel being out of her course.

"I steered a S. E. course, which is a good and safe one to clear any danger between the two ports. The speed I calculated at seven knots per hour, and, as I took a departure from Waglan Island at 6.12 p.m. on the 23rd, the distance to Verecker Shoal being 118 miles, I assumed the vessel to have passed this danger at about noon on the 24th, but to my surprise the vessel stranded on the Shoal at 9 p.m. and became a total wreck. The crew and myself remained by the vessel till 8 a.m. on the 25th, when we were taken off by a Chinese junk. At 6 a.m. on the 26th, having fitted out a small boat, myself and four Chinese took our departure for Hongkong, and at 10.30 a.m. met the German cruiser *Hansa*, whose Captain was so kind as to take us on board and bring us to Pagoda Anchorage, Foochow, and land us at 2 p.m. on Feb. 28th."

The Commander of the *Hansa* and the officers and crew have been thanked on behalf of the American Government for the great kindness shown by them.

### INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

Recent advices from India give particulars of the very great proportions the Famine has now assumed. The distress is unparalleled in the history of British rule in India.

The undersigned earnestly requests liberal subscriptions.

T. JACKSON,  
Hon. Treasurer.

### ANOTHER PIRACY CASE.

Another case of piracy has been reported to the police. At about 3.45 p.m. on the 6th inst. the steam launch *Shun Fat* left Hongkong with passengers for Cheung Chau Island, which is about an hour and a half's run from here, and when alongside Chan Kung, almost opposite Cheung Chau, several men who had come on board as passengers produced revolvers and ordered the rest of those on board below. At the same time a boat filled with men came alongside and assisted the men on board, with whom they were evidently in league, to rob the passengers. They, however, did not get much for their pains, the jewellery, etc., which they secured being only of the value of about \$25. The pirates took the launch down to the south-western point of Lantau Island, and having threatened those below if they came up until 15 minutes had elapsed, left the launch in a boat. The affair was reported to the police at Cheung Chau. It is believed that the pirates took possession of launch with the object of attacking some other vessel which seems to have escaped them.

The latest testimony to the Chinese character comes from one of the ablest of the young officers of the United States Navy, Lieut. Niblack, who, writing in the *Proceedings of the Naval Institute*, declares that the one thing of which Americans must rid themselves is their artificial, narrow, and senseless prejudice against the Chinese, who of all the Asiatics are individually the only trustworthy, commercially the only honest, and as employees the only faithful people who can be used as instruments to make the new American domain a veritable treasure-trove. He further avers his belief that to restrict them in any way would be a political blunder and commercial suicide.



## A CLUMSY ATTEMPT TO DEFRAUD.

At the Magistracy on the 2nd instant, before Mr. Gompertz, Wong A Luk, a farmer, residing at No. 30, Tai Hang, opposite the Polo Ground, was charged with conspiring with others to deceive the Director of Public Works in order to obtain grants of Crown land.

Mr. Bowley (Messrs. Pennys and Bowley, Crown Solicitors) appeared for the prosecution. He said that a gentleman named Mok Man Cheung, assistant comprador to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, had bought a piece of ground at Tai Hang village, which was immediately behind the Polo Ground at Causeway Bay. After this a broker came to him and told him there were several squatters in Tai Hang village who would obtain from the Crown pieces of land in respect of which they held squatters' licenses, and that if Mr. Mok Man Cheung would advance money on these leases they would be able to build houses upon the sites. In consequence of this representation Mr. Mok Man Cheung drew up a petition. This petition he took down to Tai Hang village, and in the house of the broker, the defendant and six others signed this petition. There were annexed to the petition seven squatters' licenses, and the prosecution alleged that these seven people who signed this petition claimed that these licenses were valid licenses at that time and that they would be able to obtain leases from the Crown in exchange for them. The petition was signed by these seven men, including the defendant, and on the next day, Monday, January 22nd, the petition was brought to the office of the Land Bailiff, addressed to the director of Public Works, by the defendant and six other persons. It was handed to the Land Bailiff and by him passed on to the Director of Public Works. On an investigation being made it was discovered that the licenses were absolutely useless, as they had expired. He believed they were dated 90, 91, and 92. Squatters' licenses were only granted for one year, and at the expiration of the term of the license was not renewed the squatter became a trespasser. Persons holding squatters' licenses in Tai Hang village were dealt with by the Squatters' Board in 1893, when their licenses were cancelled, and instead of licenses they obtained leases for plots of ground for a term of 999 years. Consequently there were no squatters now at Tai Hang village with the exception of certain washermen, who had the right of washing in the stream behind the village. It was immediately discovered that this was a fraudulent pretence on the part of the defendant and the others by which they endeavoured to obtain leases from the Crown. Mr. King was unable to recognise six of the men who came to him but he recognised the defendant, who acted as ringleader and spokesman. The defendant said his name was Fung Tai, which was the name on one of the licenses, but it was afterwards found out that he had given a wrong name. This offence was a conspiracy, and what the prosecution had to prove was that the defendant agreed with other persons to defraud. It was really a somewhat clumsy attempt at defrauding, and was discovered almost immediately. Consequently he would ask his Worship to deal with the case summarily.

Mok Man Cheung and Mr. King give evidence in corroboration of this statement.

The defendant said he had a paper with the name of Fung Tai on it. That was his wife's name. She was dead. He was at Shanghai when she died. When he was coming down to Hongkong from Shanghai his ship was burned and he took this paper to the interpreter's place to get the land. The interpreter said, "All right" and that he could get him the land. People told him he could get the land with this paper.

Loa Kwai, the defendant's sister-in-law, who said she was a widow, living at Tai Hang village, was called by the defendant as a witness, but she gave no material evidence.

Mr. Bowley, in reply to his Worship, said he had not heard before that day that Fung Tai was the defendant's wife.

The defendant is an old man 70 years of age, and Mr. Bowley said the prosecution did not wish to press the case. A nominal penalty would be sufficient.

In consequence his Worship did not send him to prison, but fined him \$10, and bound him over to be on his good behaviour for three months.

## A VISIT TO TAI-AN-FU, SHANTUNG PROVINCE.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

It has not fallen to the lot of many Englishmen to visit the very heart of a great province in North China; consequently a few reminiscences may not be without interest.

The ancient and sacred city of Tai-an-fu is second only to Chi-nan-fu, the capital of Shantung. Its celebrity arises from the fact of its situation at the foot of the sacred mountain of Tai Shan. It has been the fortune of the present writer to ascend this mountain upon more than one occasion. Rivaling Snowdon in height, it is ascended by a vast number of wide stone steps (asserted by natives to number 6,000) with more or less frequent intervals of landings or stages. This presents a formidable walk, but is cheerfully undertaken by hundreds, even thousands of pilgrims as soon after the opening of New Year as weather permits. From far and near, some on foot, some in barrows, some in mule-carts, they swarm into the city of Tai-an-fu, men of all ages, and even the cramped-footed women, receiving the invigorating spirit of the Mountain Goddess and the painted pilgrim staff to aid them on the weary march. Altar shrines and temples are passed in succession, receiving a prostration, a vow, or more substantial devotion by the offering of paper money, representing either copper or silver, till the final temple is reached at South Heaven Gate. Here the pious pilgrim for a thousand ages has offered prayers, thanks, and tribute in money or kind to Lao Nai Nai, Grandmother of the Mountain. Kings have been known to come to this venerable mountain summit, but for long years past they have been represented merely by officials.

It was in the luxury of a mountain chair, borne by two Chinese, and in the company of a brother Englishman, that the writer made his pilgrimage. The joyous Chinese spring had yielded to summer's heat, and the devout stranger pilgrims had long departed to their homes. We had time to observe the landscape at leisure. It was varied, affording us constant enjoyment and satisfaction, though there are of course a thousand scenes of equal beauty. Here clumps of cypress-trees, firs, beech-trees lent a deeper green to the withered grass, or relieved the bareness of rocky boulders and torrent-worn stones. Now we crossed an old wooden bridge over a rushing stream and small waterfall, here we looked back to catch a sight of the city in the distance, and finally, on gaining the summit, a glorious panorama lay outspread before us. In the distance were the shining lines of tributary rivers, plains of wheat and grain crops, while immediately below and around were mountain peaks and hills innumerable, with temples and priests' quarters slumbering in the eternal repose. Needless to say we spent a night on the summit, for the journey had been tiring to the chair-bearers, and the sun had begun to decline. Shelter for the night is readily afforded even to a "foreign devil" in the precincts of a temple, for the frugal Chinese never lose a chance of getting money. That at least was our experience on the famed Tai Shan.

If the natural scenery is enjoyable, the artificial adornments and memorials of the mountain are also interesting. There are handsome stone arches or gateways at various stages with such melodious names as South Heaven Gate, Middle Heaven Gate, First Heaven Gate, carved and ornamental archways inscribed with felicitous phrases. Temples, large and small, on either hand with mundane tea-houses at intervals, lend colour, life and a measure of beauty to the mountain stairway. The city of Tai-an-fu is closed by the customary wall, and no foreigner can safely dwell within its limits. The missionaries, Anglican and Baptist, live in the suburbs, and are seldom molested or annoyed. The recent barbarous murder of Mr. Brooks, however, seems to indicate that a violent death may at any time close the career of a Christian foreigner.

We are informed by Messrs John D. Humphreys and Son, General Managers of Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, that they have received a telegram from the Mines, giving the result of last month's crushing as follows:—195 tons of quartz crushed for a yield of 230 ounces retorted gold; mill ran 24 days."

## CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 3rd March.

Fantan is far the most popular form of gambling here. Until lately it was carried on covertly, by bribing the officials; but now the authorities, seeing the uselessness of prohibiting the game, have turned it into a source of revenue for the government, and it is carried on under official protection. The commanding officer of Kwong Hip undertakes to pay for the license one million taels annually, and this license he farms out to all the gambling houses in the city and the suburbs. The money thus obtained from gambling goes to defray the expenses for the increase of army and navy. So on the 1st instant nearly all the gambling houses were re-opened, displaying large sign-board with gilt characters on them, while the soldiers of Kwong Hip in red uniforms guarded the doors. Gambling was in full swing day and night. A license for a first-class gambling house is from 60 to 65 taels a month; for the medium houses from 20 to 40 taels; and for the lowest establishment about 10 taels.

There are now from 40 to 50 kinds of lottery here, genuine and otherwise. It is reported that as the Waiking lottery-farmers have offered the highest tender for them, it is likely that they will succeed in obtaining a monopoly. It may be said now that Canton is the chief gambling haunt in China.

On the 21st, 25th and 26th ult., being the Feast of Lettuces, many people made the pilgrimage to the temple of the white-clothed goddess of mercy at Kun Yew, to make their vows and pray the goddess for children, and feasted largely on lettuce. Hosts of devotees went there by flower-boats towed by steam-launches to "chinchin joss" and assisted at the theatrical representations, religious processions and fireworks. They subscribed liberally for these entertainments.

Five pirates were arrested in a low house in Tong-u-lau while they were having their revelry there, through the instrumentality of a detective. They were brought before the Magistrate, tried, and confessed to the crime of stealing the steam-launch *Lily* to attack a coal-boat on the 23rd January last on the Canton river. They were decapitated, and their heads have been placed in wooden cages and hung up on bamboo poles at Houam for public inspection.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

On the 27th ult. at 9 p.m. a junk, towed by a steam launch carrying about one hundred and twenty passengers, foundered near Kong-Moon, where the passengers who came by the junk from San Cheong, San Ling district, were to re-embark on the *Hang Chow* for Hongkong. As it was very dark at the time only forty persons were saved, while about eighty were missing.

Some merchants have presented a petition to the Viceroy, asking to be allowed to establish a shipping company with a line running directly between Canton and Singapore. The Viceroy is taking the question into consideration and has written to the Chinese Consul-General in Singapore to give a report of the Chinese trades there.

The price of rice is gradually going downward, for the Viceroy has sent several *Weiyuen* to Wuhu and some other places where rice grows in great abundance, to buy rice to be sold in Canton at a low price. On the 23rd ult. the gunboat *Foh Po* arrived at Canton from Wuhu fully loaded with rice.

The fantan gambling-houses opened on the 1st March. They have to pay to the farmer from sixty down to five taels a day rent, according as their business is large or small; with the addition of the usual blackmail paid in former times to the officials, gentry, and Yamen runners. A month's rent must be paid in advance. A reward of fifty dollars is to be given to any person who effects the capture of any bad character giving trouble to the gambling houses. The rent of the monopoly is fixed at 1,200,000 taels per annum throughout the whole province of Kwangtung. Two hun-



dred thousand taels of the said rent are to be distributed among the officials, gentry, and Yamen runners, who were in the habit of accepting blackmail from these gambling houses in former time and the remaining one million taels are to go to the Government Treasury.

The Viceroy has commenced to take steps to root out piracy. A committee, composed of the provincial Treasurer and Judge, the General, the Admiral, several Taotais and vice-generals, have been appointed for the purpose. Soldiers are to be sent in five directions to hunt out the robbers by land and by water. On the 17th ult. five pirates were discovered and captured in a brothel in Long Yu-lun in Canton. On trial they all confessed that they had made many attacks on steam launches and they were consequently taken to Tin-l'au Ma-tau to be decapitated on the 25th ultimo.

#### SANDAKAN NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SANDAKAN, 25th February.

Since my last report the redoubtable Mat Salleh has been killed, and the whole of the native trouble here ended. The engagement was on the 31st of January. Mat Salleh has been reported killed once or twice before, but there is no question about the fact this time. He has been a very annoying element for the past four or five years, and no doubt has somewhat hampered trade in the territory; now, however, in all probability, there will be no more trouble of this kind, and it is sincerely to be hoped the West Coast trade will go ahead, and, under a peaceful regime, more than fulfil the sanguine anticipations of the Board of Directors of the North Borneo Co.

A private company has been started for working a timber concession in the Labuk District, and the existing cutters are all very busy, so that no fault can be found with this particular trade here. Indeed, what is wanted now is tonnage, and the *Mau Sang* will be very welcome to these waters again on that account. Also, I understand that another private company intends opening up the timber trade at Zamboanga immediately, the principals interested being from Sandakan.

Those interested in coffee here would like to see the Market holding its upward trend, as that would give a much desired impetus to the cultivation of it in this district.

Latest reports received here from Zamboanga do not paint business there in any glowing colours, but the Americans are very hopeful that this place will turn out an important centre in a little time.

#### HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY, LIMITED.

The thirteenth ordinary annual meeting of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, was held on the 6th inst. at the Company's Office. Hon. J. J. Keswick presided. The other gentlemen present were:—Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., A. Haupt, E. Goetz, D. M. Moses, J. A. Mackay, A. J. Raymond, A. G. Wood, E. S. Wheeler, N. A. Siebs, H. A. Ritchie (directors), E. Osborne (secretary), P. Jordan, E. Georg. W. S. Bamsay, J. R. Michael, C. H. Thompson, T. F. Hough, J. Osborne, Captain Tillet, J. Gosman, Ho Fook.

The CHAIRMAN said—The report and accounts having been with you for some days, I propose, with your permission, to consider them as read. The most noticeable feature in the accounts, and one that will probably cause some surprise, is that whilst our gross earnings have increased by some \$24,000, the profit shows a decrease of \$22,000. This apparent anomaly is explained by two facts. In the first place the profits in 1898 were materially assisted by some exceedingly lucrative business which came to us in consequence of the war in the Philippines, and in the second place the expenses of conducting our work have largely increased—compensation has been made to European employees for the shrinkage of their salaries through depreciation of

silver—a higher scale of pay has had to be adopted towards our Chinese in order to retain them in our service—a large increase has taken place in the cost of coolie labour—an advance in prices has brought our expenditure on stores to a higher figure—and taxes, crown rent, and interest have increased. In fact, the company has had to incur a larger expenditure on every side and more especially on what may be termed intelligent labour, that is to say, clerks, godown-men, tallymen, overseers and others, of whom we employ about three hundred. So long, too, as the services of these men command higher wages elsewhere than we are giving, I fear we shall have to face a continual increase in this direction if we are to avoid losing our trained men, who are attracted elsewhere by higher pay. Another explanation for these reduced profits lies in the fact that in order to keep business in our hands we have had to engage outside accommodation for cargo and coal which we could not take in our own godowns. We have had to work with hired tools, and that as you know generally leads to unsatisfactory results. At the same time, I feel sure you will agree with me that it is a sound principle of business to retain one's connections, even though in doing so the profit may be small. And this brings me to the question of increased accommodation to which reference was made by the Chairman at your last meeting. One large new godown is nearly finished, another has been commenced and we have leased a third. The first two, when completed, will give much needed relief to the overstocked godowns, and afford our staff a chance of conducting the company's business in a proper and efficient manner. Our past experience, however, teaches us that we must not stop still, that we must look ahead and be in advance rather than behind our requirements, and that a most essential point in the successful working of our business is that we should have plenty of room for sorting purposes, and an ample reserve accommodation so that advantage may be taken of any windfall that happens to come along. Under these circumstances, it will, I hope, meet with your approval that we have acquired the additional land mentioned in the report, and that we should incur further outlay in providing more accommodation. Though the upward tendency of our expenses is regrettable, it is on the other hand gratifying to find the company's permanent business, and by that, I mean, regular as distinct from exceptional business, continues to develop, and judging by the steady expansion that has characterised it during the past, I think we are now making, and others that we contemplate making, will not fail to yield their fruit in due season. I do not think that their is anything of interest that I can add to these remarks, but before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be very pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr MICHAEL seconded.

Carried.

On the motion of Mr Ho Fook, seconded by Mr. E. GEORG, the appointments of Messrs E. Goetz, D. M. Moses, J. A. Mackay and A. G. Wood to the Board of Directors were confirmed.

Messrs. N. A. Siebs and A. J. Raymond were re-elected to the Directorate on the motion of Mr. THOMPSON, seconded by Mr. GOOSMAN.

On the motion of Mr. JORDAN, seconded by Mr. HOUGH, Messrs. F. Henderson and W. H. Potts were re-elected as auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be posted to-day. That concludes the business of the meeting. I am much obliged to you for your attendance.

The s.s. *Heungshan* had a somewhat unfortunate experience on her last trip to Macao. Owing to her propeller getting fouled she was some hours late in getting away from the wharf, arriving at Macao at 8.30 p.m. When off the Praya Grande, the steamer fouled the cable, cutting it in two, and brought back several yards on her propeller to Hongkong. This accounted for the cable interruption between here and Macao. Captain Clarke being about to take a holiday run to Australia, a new captain was in charge of the *Heungshan*; he, however, was in no wise responsible for the mishap.

#### HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.

On the 7th inst. at noon an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the above company was held at the offices. The chair was occupied by the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and there were also present, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. M. Moses, A. Haupt, A. J. Raymond (directors), A. Shelton Hooper (secretary), A. Mackenzie, A. Denison, A. McConachie, E. A. Ram, E. Georg, J. Orange, H. A. W. Slade, G. de Champeau, J. C. Peter, J. Hooper, J. A. Joseph, D. W. Craddock, C. Palmer, G. Stewart, H. N. Mody, G. T. Veitch, M. S. Northgate, Dr. Hartigan, S. Rustonjee, G. Murray Bain, F. M. de Graca, J. M. de Graca, Douglas Jones, and C. H. Thompson.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I regret to have to inform you that our chairman (Hon. J. J. Keswick) is temporarily indisposed. Consequently his duties temporarily devolve upon me. At our last ordinary annual meeting, after the reading of the report and accounts, Mr. McConachie suggested for the consideration of the Board and of the meeting, that it was highly desirable in the interests of the company and of the shareholders, that further liability for calls on the shares in the company should be done away with, and that the shares should become fully paid up either by capitalizing the old fund, one and a quarter millions of dollars, and issuing a fully paid-up scrip for \$75 per share, a course which involved a reduction of our subscribed capital from \$5,000,000 to \$3,750,000; or, by capitalizing the reserve fund, applying it in payment of \$25 per share on all the shares in the company, and gradually calling up the other \$25 per share in cash. Mr. McConachie recommended the adoption of one or other of these courses on the ground that, our shares once fully paid up and freed from all further liability, would become a very highly desirable form of investment for trustees and others having capital to put out, and that we would at the same time confer a benefit on our own shareholders by furnishing them with a better market and more numerous customers for their shares, and largely benefit the colony by helping to retain in it money that must otherwise seek investment elsewhere. Your Directors immediately negatived any proposal for the reduction of the company's capital, but expressed their readiness and willingness to take into consideration any proposals that Mr. McConachie and his friends might desire to lay before them for utilizing the reserve fund by capitalizing it, and for calling up the unpaid capital of the company. They deprecated, however, any discussion at the meeting of Mr. McConachie's proposals as inopportune and not in order, neither your directors nor the shareholders generally having had any notices of these proposals, and the sense of the meeting being with your directors, the matter was not then further considered. Since that meeting, a requisition very numerous and very influentially signed has been addressed to the Board, to which they have given the very fullest and most careful consideration, and in the result the present extraordinary meeting has been convened. The proposal put forward by the requisitionists was as follows:—"That the reserve fund of \$1,250,000 be capitalized; that \$25 per share be credited to the present scrip of \$50 per share paid up, and that the remaining \$25 per share be gradually called up, completing the capital of the company to its authorized amount of \$5,000,000." With this requisition before them your directors had four things to consider. 1st.—Was it advisable to call up the unpaid capital? 2nd.—By what instalments when it should be called up? 3rd.—Was it advisable to utilize the reserve fund of \$1,250,000 in part payment of the call or calls? and 4th.—If advisable, could it be legally done and in what form? Now the first conclusion the Board arrived at was this, that no such considerations as those suggested by Mr. McConachie at the ordinary meeting in justification for his proposals could warrant them in calling up the unpaid capital; neither the benefit to the colony nor any possible benefit to the shareholders personally, unless at the same time they could see their way to early and profitable employment for the capital so called up. To call up capital that could not



be profitably invested in the company's operations and at once, would be to injure and not to benefit the company. On that point your directors have satisfied themselves, and believe that they can find scope for the profitable employment of any capital called up, and therefore, if this meeting approves of the capital being fully paid up, the Board is ready and willing to give effect to your views, although it is a matter which, under ordinary circumstances, is wholly within their discretion and power. They would like, however, to have that course approved by something more than a bare majority. With reference to the second point, the Board is of opinion that if a call is to be made, it should be made at an early date and in one sum. To call up the amount gradually would militate against the object Mr. McConachie and his friends have in view, to get fully paid up shares in which Trustees and others might promptly invest their monies. We see no reason either in the present position of the colony and of the money market, why the unpaid capital should not be got in at once. As to the third point, we would have you to bear in mind that, in applying this reserve fund as it is now proposed to apply it, you are adding nothing to the present earning power of the company, while you are increasing the amount of the capital on which we have to pay dividends. This one and a quarter million is at present employed as if it were part of the company's capital. Our working capital at the moment is practically \$3,750,000 all usefully employed, and we pay dividends on \$2,500,000 only. As to the fourth point, we have taken legal advice and are assured that the reserve fund of one and a quarter millions created by the special resolution of the 6th April, 1889, may be capitalized and applied in payment of the calls or part of them as proposed. It is not a fund accumulated out of the profits of the company in its current business. It is money that came directly out of the pockets of the shareholders. It was created by a special resolution and its destination may be changed by a like special resolution duly confirmed and registered. So that if on other grounds you think it well to apply this fund in payment of a portion of the unpaid capital now to be called up, you may safely and effectually do so by the special resolution of which notice has been given. I now beg to propose the first resolution, namely, "I.—That the proposal of the directors to call up the unpaid capital of the company in one call of \$50 per share, payable on 1st July next, is approved."

Mr. McConachie seconded and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—I am very glad to see the proposition carried unanimously, because by our articles you must have at least a majority of three-fourths. It is better that it should be unanimous. The first resolution having been carried, I now beg to propose the following special resolution:—"That profits accrued to the company from the issue at a premium of the new shares in the company, authorised to be issued by the special resolution passed on the 6th, and confirmed on the 23rd day of April, 1889, amounting to the sum of \$1,250,000, and which was then carried, and is now standing to the credit of the reserve fund in pursuance of such special resolution, be capitalized and be applied in part payment of the call of \$50 per share on all the share in the company, to be made by the board."

Mr. PETER seconded and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the shareholders would be called together again to confirm the special resolution which had just been passed.

There were 3,805 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 161 were Europeans.

Mr. Francis Arthur Hazeland, Deputy Registrar and Accountant of the Supreme Court, was called to the bar on the 26th of January at Lincoln's Inn.

The Death-rate for the month of February in the Colony was as follows:—British and Foreign Community, Civil Population, 15.8 per 1,000 per annum; Chinese Community, Land and Boat, 21.4.

### THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fifteenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on the 8th instant, at the company's offices, No. 9, Praya Central. The chair was occupied by Mr. M. Shewan and there were also present: Messrs D. Gillies, J. H. Lewis and A. J. Raymond (Consulting Committee), E. S. Kelly, F. J. V. Jorge, H. W. Dann, A. H. Babington, G. C. Anderson, G. W. F. Playfair and R. D. Anderson (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—If you have no objection we will take the report, which has been in your hands for some time, as read. The year that has elapsed since we last met has, as we then anticipated, been a very difficult one. The rebellion in the Philippines lasted longer than we expected, and as you know the hemp ports were only finally reopened the other day. The price of hemp rose to heights which in ordinary times we should consider enormous, and it became a very anxious and difficult matter for us to decide as to whether we were justified in laying in stocks at such figures. On the one hand we naturally wanted to avoid having to shut down and lose our hold on the trade we have long and carefully built up with the countries around us, but on the other hand if we did not do so, we had to face the very probable likelihood of being caught on a falling market with a heavy stock of very costly raw material. We were between the devil and the deep sea; in spite of ourselves we had to gamble to a large extent and if as some people think the end justifies the means, we are certainly well justified by the present result. We hope, however, that no one will run away with the idea that such profits as these can be expected from ropemaking every year. The problem before us this year will be, I think, a very different one. Instead of buying hemp on a steadily rising market for hope, we shall probably have to accept lower and lower prices for the manufactured article as soon as the markets at home begin to feel the effect of their imports of cheaper hemp. Fortunately our present stocks of raw material are not large. At the end of last year, as you will notice from the report, we had used up every pound we had and our stock of rope was diminishing so rapidly that we were very thankful when the hemp ports were at last reopened. Until the hemp market settles down we shall, of course, buy sparingly, but it is very evident to us that we must be in a position in future to carry much large stocks of both raw and wrought material. For this reason and also because we contemplate further extensions to the factory and plant, we ask you to allow us to retain the profits for the year and use them as conditional capital. The company will then be in a very strong position indeed and fit to cope with any increased demand that may spring up. Opposition concerns have been spoken of by our neighbours in the Philippines, but after consideration they have seen no advantage to be gained over us, and if we ourselves saw any we would at once advise you to establish a factory over there as well. The fact is that after careful study of the conditions and going so far as to send our Superintendent, Mr. Klink, who was formerly in charge of a rope factory there and knows the country and people well, to Manila to look into the question on the spot, we could see no inducement whatever. On the contrary the superiority and cheapness of Chinese labor here leaves a large balance in favour of this side not to mention the far greater facilities we have here in the way of storage and transshipment and direct transportation to almost every part of the world, as well as the benefits we also derive from having bought our plant at home when exchange was greatly in our favour and our land at a price much below what would have to be paid to-day for it. In the fine position we shall now be in, we need have little fear of competition from the Philippines or any other quarter. If any should come we shall be able to live where it will starve, for it is our firm intention to keep our prices in future down to a level that will defy competition, and to make up for the reduced returns by the larger turnover we shall do. You will notice we have re-valued our investments, but have not taken credit for as much as we could have done, and you will find if you will take the trouble to work it out that the figures we have placed against this item are still con-

siderably below the market value. There is nothing else in the accounts that I see that requires any comment, but if any of you have any questions to ask I shall be happy to answer them. I may add that, of course, if you adopt our proposals for the increase of capital, the usual extraordinary meetings to effect them will be called as soon as possible.

No questions being asked, the Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. GILLIES seconded and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Captain G. C. ANDERSON, seconded by Mr. PLAYFAIR, Messrs. Gillies, Lewis, Raymond and Shewan were re-elected as Consulting Committee for the ensuing year.

Messrs. Thos. Arnold and Fullarton Henderson were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. LEWIS, seconded by Mr. BABINGTON.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business of the meeting. I will now read you the following notice:—

### THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited, will be held at No. 9, Praya Central, Victoria, Hongkong, on Saturday, the seventeenth day of March, 1900, at 12 o'clock noon, when the subjoined Resolution will be proposed. Should the Resolution be passed by the required majority it will be submitted for confirmation as a special Resolution to a Second Extraordinary Meeting which will be subsequently convened.

That the Capital of the Company be increased from \$250,000 to \$500,000 by the creation of 5,000 new shares of \$50 each, such increase to be made up by the conversion into Capital of the sum of \$250,000 out of the Reserve Fund or the Investments representing the same.

Dated the 8th day of March, 1900.

SHEWAN TOMES & Co.,

General Managers.

As soon as these resolutions have been passed and confirmed, scrip for the new shares will be issued to all shareholders whose names are on the register to-day.

### THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The thirty-first ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above company was held in the company's offices, No. 3, Queen's Road Central, on the 8th inst. The chair was occupied by Mr. H. L. Dalrymple, there being also present: Messrs. N. A. Siebs, H. Haupt, A. McConachie, E. Goetz, A. G. Wood, D. M. Moses (Directors), G. L. Tomlin (Secretary), T. H. Reid, H. W. Slade, G. T. Veitch, C. Palmer, A. Moir, B. M. Conceicao, and Chan Pat.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts of the company for the past year having been in your hands for about four weeks. I have no doubt you will consent to take them as read and I will now make such comments on them as appear called for. You will probably recollect that when we met last year it was pointed out to you what a small balance was carried forward to the credit of Working Account 1898. That small balance was still further reduced by claims and return premia paid in 1899, and the year 1899 has eventually ended in a profit of \$86,435.17 only, which is the worst record for the past 23 years, although the loss ratio of 78.33 per cent. compares favorably with 91.62 per cent. shown in 1894, in which year, however, your dividend fell from \$6 to \$4 per share, whilst on the present occasion we are in the satisfactory position of being able to propose the usual dividend of \$6 per share, thanks to the creation of the Extra Reserve Fund formed for such a purpose from part of the profits of 1897. Whilst on the subject of the Extra Reserve Fund I would beg to refer to the contested claim mentioned in the Report. This unfortunate incident happened in connection with the serious Kobe Pier Fire in March, 1898, when a dispute arose as to the liability coming under a Marine or a Fire Insurance Policy. After many delays the decision was given against the company in H. B. M.'s Supreme



Court at Yokohama, and although we considered that we had been hardly dealt with in view of the Assured's intentions in the first instance we deemed it advisable not to appeal against the judgment. This loss is rightly debited to the Extra Reserve Fund as it was a liability pertaining to 1897 and would have gone to that year had the decision been given during 1898 instead of in April last. Turning now to the Working Account of 1899, it is with a much greater degree of pleasure that we meet you this year, the balance carried forward of \$223,763.03 being \$103,273.83 in excess on this occasion, and with ordinary fortune we can look forward to providing for lean periods by replenishing the Extra Reserve Fund when all of our risks have run off. The year 1898 was an extremely bad one for Fire Insurance Companies the world over and 1899 promises to be even worse, but I am happy to say that so far such is not the case with us. Our Premium Account shows a falling off of 14,813.16 but taking into consideration the closing of two unprofitable Agencies and the restrictions placed on another, we have made up in a great measure in other directions for the loss of income derived from those sources, and at the same time we trust we have reduced the Company's chance of losses by our action. Losses Account is fairly moderate and would have been more so had it not been for the serious fire in the Chop Yick Godowns on the 22nd December which cost us no less than \$28,900. I might mention that our losses since the end of the year amount to \$30,365 of which the sum of \$2,200 is on account of 1899 policies. The Company's Surveyors have, as usual, reported on the properties in Hongkong under Mortgage to us and I am happy to say that we are satisfied in each case with the security we hold. I will now conclude by moving "that the Director's Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1899 as presented be adopted." After this has been seconded I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be put relating to business before the meeting.

Mr. SLADE seconded.

Mr. MOIR—With regard to Charges Account, is it not much higher than last year—rent, salaries, etc.

The CHAIRMAN—The Charges Account is at least \$2,725 less than the previous year.

Mr. MOIR—As we seem to be going down instead of going up, don't you think it is our business to try to economise? How much rent do we pay for this suite of offices? Rooms not quite so large as Mr. Tomlin's would be quite sufficient for the whole staff.

The CHAIRMAN—I think that is hardly a question to put to the Directors.

Mr. MOIR—You think it is not to the point?

The CHAIRMAN—No.

Mr. MOIR—I suppose I can get the information if I want it?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes if you want it; if you apply to the Secretary.

Mr. MOIR—I think the rent, salaries, etc., should be put down separately in the accounts.

The CHAIRMAN—This is the form adopted since the formation of the company.

Mr. MOIR—That is no reason why it should go on if we are not satisfied, and I am not satisfied with it.

The CHAIRMAN—I note your objection.

Mr. MOIR—As we are feeling the competition very keenly, has it never suggested itself to the Directors to appoint their own representatives at the principal ports? I see from the Commission Account that we paid \$22,000 in agents' commissions.

The CHAIRMAN—We should have more to pay that to special agents.

Mr. MOIR—Supposing you had your own representative in Shanghai?

The CHAIRMAN—It would probably cost us more than it does now. We are perfectly satisfied with our agents in Shanghai.

Mr. MOIR—I do not refer particularly to Shanghai; but don't you think it would be to the advantage of the company to have their own agents at the principal ports?

The CHAIRMAN—It would very much increase our expenses, and I do not think we should get much more business.

Mr. MOIR—Has it ever been discussed by the Board?

The CHAIRMAN—I cannot say that it has.

Mr. MOIR—We find insurance companies sending people out from home to act for them.

The CHAIRMAN—We are perfectly well aware of that.

Mr. MOIR—I should be glad if you could give that matter your consideration. We have as Directors gentlemen who represent home companies which are working in direct opposition to us.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not think there is any opposition about it at all, because we are working on a tariff.

Mr. MOIR—I quite understand that; but there must be opposition.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not think there is, we get as much business as we can carry.

Mr. MOIR—There are a large number of new buildings being put up; how has this fact affected our premium?

The CHAIRMAN—The premium up to date shows an increase of over \$2,000 in Hongkong.

Mr. MOIR—That is very satisfactory, but the point I want to get at is this:—We have a large number of Directors, and we look upon them as trying to bring business into the Company, do we not?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. MOIR—In the event of someone coming to your office to insure a building, would you advise him to come to the China Fire Insurance Company or would you take it in your own office?

The CHAIRMAN—I have done it before instead of taking it in my own office.

Mr. MOIR—There is one more point. Has it never suggested itself to you that being on this Board of Directors and the representative of a home company is not quite in accord with the ordinary routine of business.

The CHAIRMAN—No.

Mr. MOIR—Is it not considered detrimental to the interests of the company?

The CHAIRMAN—No, I do not think it is.

The motion was then carried.

On the motion of Mr. VEITCH, seconded by Mr. REID, the appointment of Messrs. Goetz, Wood, Shellim and Moses as Directors was carried.

Messrs. Haupt and McConachie were re-elected Directors, on the motion of Mr. GEORGE, seconded by Mr. PALMER.

Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts were re-elected Auditors, on the motion of Mr. VEITCH, seconded by Mr. MOIR.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business before the meeting. I am much obliged for your attendance. I have to announce that dividend warrants will be posted to-morrow morning.

#### WATKINS, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the first ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the company, at noon, on Saturday, the 17th March, 1900.

Gentlemen,—We have now the pleasure to lay before you a statement of the Company's business and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1899.

The net profits of the Company for the year, after playing all charges, salaries, wages, preliminary expenses, and providing for bad and doubtful debts, amount to ... \$15,022.43

which we propose to deal with as follows:—

To pay a dividend of eight per cent. per share for the year, or eighty cents per share, which will absorb ... \$ 8,000.00

To carry forward to new Profit and Loss account ... 7,022.43

\$15,022.43

The profits on the working of the company in terms of the agreement for the sale of the business to the company accrued from the 1st January, 1899, although the capital was not received until August last, and consequently was not employed in the business until the latter part of the year under review; we hope therefore that the result of the working of the business will be considered satisfactory.

It will be observed that the furniture and fittings stand at \$911.09—a very low figure—

the present value being considerably over \$2,000. Under the circumstances the general managers have not thought it necessary to provide for any depreciation in this direction.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Gaskell.

The business of the company continues to increase, and with our new Aerated Water Plant working we hope to add further to it.

G. A. WATKINS,  
CH'AN A FOOK,  
General Managers.

#### HONGKONG.

As two lighters were being towed up from Quarry Bay on the 5th inst., a coolie dropped overboard opposite North Point and was drowned.

The Returns of Cases of Communicable Disease in the Colony for the week ending 3rd March show one case and one death from plague; one case of enteric fever; and two of Puerperal, with one death.

At the Magistracy on the 6th inst. three or four cases of being in unlawful possession of arms came before Mr. Gompertz, and fines of \$50 and \$25 were imposed. In one case the arms seized—four muskets—were loaded.

Arrangements have been made by the P. and O. Company for the P. and O. Special Train de Luxe to run from Marseilles to London in connection with the steamers *L'arramatta* and *Massilia*, leaving Hongkong on the 31st March and 14th April respectively, direct for Marseilles.

Mr. Henry Dallas's theatrical company, which is bringing out *The Geisha*, *A Runaway Girl* and selections from *The Babes in the Wood*, *The Sorrows of Satan*, and *His Excellency the Governor*, was expected to give its opening performance at Singapore on or about March 2nd. The company has been very successful at Calcutta. Mr. Dallas will arrive in Hongkong on the 21st of this month, and the opening performance will be *The Geisha*.

We regret to announce that Mr. B. W. Morrell, Manager of the South British Insurance Company, died at 7 o'clock a.m. on the 6th inst. after eleven days' illness. He was buried in the afternoon, with a Volunteer Funeral, in the Happy Valley Cemetery. Mr. Morrell, who had only been out in the colony for about eighteen months, was only 25 years of age and was a gunner in the A. Machine Gun Co., H. K. V. There were many wreaths and the firing party was taken from the deceased's company.

Mrs. Archibald Little left on the 4th inst. for Swatow. We understand from her that King Lien-Shan, though a warm supporter of the Anti-footbinding movement, is not a subscriber to her Tien Tsu Hui or Natural Feet Society, which has now 21 branches in China, and of which Miss Blake has now consented to be Honorary Secretary. The annual subscription to this society, we may mention, is one dollar; life membership ten dollars, for European and Chinese alike. The Natural Feet Society to which King Lien-Shan belongs is, another correspondent tells us, a different one from that of which Mrs. Little is so strong a supporter.

At the Magistracy on the 3rd inst. Lang Man Sang, a broker, residing at No. 26, Li Yuen Street, was charged that he "unlawfully did have in his possession more than three pieces of false or counterfeit coin resembling or apparently intended to resemble or pass for the Queen's current silver coin of this Colony, to wit, divers false or counterfeit silver twenty-cent and ten-cent pieces, well knowing the same to be false or counterfeit, and with intent to utter or pass the same, contrary to Ordinance 10 of 1865, on the 2nd inst." The prisoner, for whom Mr. Mounsey appeared, pleaded not guilty. It appears that a cook in the employ of the prisoner complained to Inspector McLennan at the West Point Police Station that his master had paid him his wages in counterfeit money, and that there was plenty more bad money in a lockfast box in his master's room. Chief Detective Inspector Hanson was informed of the report made by the cook, and he entered the house in Li Yuen Street under a search warrant. The money was found in the box as described. The case was adjourned until Friday, bail (\$500) being allowed.



At the Regimental Dinner of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers on Thursday night (St. David's Day), at which General Gascoigne was present, the Governor caused great excitement by announcing that he had received a telegram to the effect that Ladysmith had been relieved.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on the 7th inst. the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works) offered for sale by auction Inland lot No. 1,491, which is situated in Winglok Street and Des Vœux Road. The lot contains 6,650 square feet. The annual rent is \$122. The upset price was fixed at \$53,040. On the lot being put into the market the price quickly rose to \$97,000, at which it was purchased by Mr. A. Shelton Hooper for the Hongkong Land Investment Company.

Foochow is naturally proud, says *The Foochow Daily Echo*, of *Pluto's* successes at the Hongkong Race meeting, and Mr. Dorset, the fortunate owner of the pony, has been almost overwhelmed with congratulations both locally and from distances by wire. The following telegram was received from Hongkong:—"Club, Foochow: Hongkong Jockey Club tenders to Foochow sportsmen heartiest congratulations on *Pluto's* Champions and best thanks to owner for cup." We are informed that it is twenty-three years since the Hongkong Champion Stakes race was won by a Foochow-owned pony.

The number of prisoners admitted to Victoria Gaol during the year 1899 under sentence from the ordinary Courts was 4,164, besides 89 soldiers and sailors sentenced by Courts Martial. There were 55 persons admitted for debt and 501 in default finding security, making a total of 4,789. Of these 736 were old offenders, including 11 juveniles who were merely sent to the Gaol to be birched, leaving a total of 725 old offenders who actually underwent imprisonment. This is an improvement on last year, when there was a total of 5,427 (including 769 old offenders). There have, moreover, been no attempts to escape during the past year, and the profits on Industrial Labour amounted to \$16,822 as compared with the \$6,204 of 1899 and the \$2,620 of 1897.

At the Magistracy on the 6th inst. J. H. Danenburg, landlord of the Colonial Hotel, Jubilee Street, was charged on remand with permitting drunkenness and serving a drunken man on the night of the 20th February. The evidence for the prosecution was that at about 7.40 on the night in question Sergeants Garrod and Angus stood near the door of the hotel and saw a drunken man served with beer, and that a number of men were rolling about the floor, which was strewn with tin pots. Five witnesses were called to contradict this story, and Mr. Slade, who appeared for the defendant, suggested that perhaps unconsciously—it might be the effect of Race week—a good deal of imagination had entered into the accounts given by the two sergeants. His Worship, however, did not take this view of the case, and fined the defendant \$5 for the first offence and \$25 for the second.

At the Magistracy on the 2nd inst. Mr. Gompertz enquired into the circumstances connected with the fire which broke out at 25, Queen's Road West, on the morning of the 22nd February, when a woman lost her life through suffocation. The husband of the deceased woman said he and his wife and child were sleeping in a cubicle on the first floor when he was awakened about two o'clock in the morning by his wife calling out "Fire; take the child and go." There was a lot of smoke in the room and he could see fire coming up into his kitchen from below. He picked up the child and left the cubicle, his wife going in front. He last saw her at the door of the room, when she told him to hurry up and take the child away. He did not stop to take anything from the room, but made for the stairs. He found that the stairs were on fire, but he jumped over the flames and got into the street. He then called for his wife, but got no answer. The people in the street told him to report the matter at the Central Police Station. He did so and was sent back and instructed to tell the firemen to search for his wife. He did so and when the fire was out he went with them into his room. The dead body of his wife was found lying at the foot of the bed. She had no hair on her head and her hands were burned. Further evidence was given and the premises were released.

The annual athletic sports in connection with the Victoria Recreation Club will take place at the Happy Valley on Saturday, the 31st inst.

The Commandant's parade in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps took place at half-past two on the 3rd inst., on the Polo Ground at Causeway Bay.

The *Government Gazette* on Saturday, 3rd March, announced that His Excellency the Governor has, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, been pleased to appoint Henry Hessay Johnson Gompertz to be Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk of Councils, in succession to John Gerald Thomas Buckle, resigned.

Much commotion was caused in the neighbourhood of Hollywood Road on the 1st inst. at midnight by a fire which broke out on the ground floor of No. 11, Hollywood Road, occupied as a furniture store. The Fire Brigade soon got to work and speedily extinguished the flames. The damage—about \$50—is covered by insurance in the Union Assurance Company (Messrs. Harry Wicking and Co.).

The last performance of *The Yeoman of the Guard* took place on Monday the 5th, and a most successful run concluded with an enthusiastic house. Encores were numerous, and the principal ladies, Mesdames Campbell, Badeley and Ross received bouquets. Viscount Suidale and Mr. Parsons were also in excellent form and were often recalled. The A. D. C. has every reason to feel proud of their recent work.

The Season of Exodus has already commenced and our prominent citizens are leaving not as single spies but in battalions. There seems every indication that this year Hongkong will soon be, like London when Parliament has risen, "empty," at any rate there are more people leaving, either for a permanency or for the summer, this than in any previous year. The German Mail which departed on Wednesday carried several. Amongst those departed by the *Ceylon* was our Harbour Master, the Hon. Commander Murray Rumsey, R.N. Commander Rumsey has not always been in harmony with popular public opinion, but he is an official who has done his work ably according to his lights, and one who rendered ungrudgingly, outside of his official duties, very valuable services to the community during the plague times. No one has been more esteemed socially. By the public generally as well as by his own immediate circle he will be warmly welcomed on his return. The *Ceylon* also took away for a time one of the oldest, most popular, and best known of our mercantile men, Mr. E. Jones Hughes. Both he and Mrs. Hughes will be much missed by those of us who are compelled to remain behind.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

A military correspondent at Odessa states that large quantities of both heavy and light ammunition are being concentrated there from the various military depots in the eastern provinces of Russia for early shipment to the Far East. A considerable number of guns chiefly for forts, are on their way out to supersede weapons of remoter make which were placed in positions in the Liao-tung Peninsula when it first came into the possession of Russia.

Messrs. Stokes and Platt of Shanghai have been retained to look after King Lien-shan's interests and to procure, if possible, his speedy release. A letter lately received here, says *N. C. Daily News*, from a companion of Mr. King, states that they are apparently dogged day and night by the emissaries of the mandarins; those sent by the Canton authorities having photographs of Mr. King sent from Shanghai in order that they may identify their victim. A very large sum of money is promised for his capture. Finally so anxious are the mandarins to make away with Mr. King and so gain the applause of the Empress Dowager and her councillors, Prince Ching and Kang Yi, that they have issued special orders to decapitate Mr. King without trial the moment he is arrested, as delay might compel them to release him. A telegram from Peking seems to show that Jung Lu tried hard to prevent this persecution of Mr. King but that he had to give way to the greater influence of Prince Ching and Kang Yi.

On the 24th ult. the French Chamber decided to adopt a maximum tariff for foreign colonial products and the Senate rectified this. This is the occasion of rejoicings among the French of Indo-China. The minimum tariff continues in operation, however, for a while in order to allow some already settled contracts to be carried out.

The Shanghai *Sin Wan Pao* says that "as King Lien-shan and his father are really men of excellent conduct and kind-hearted, and have raised millions of dollars for the relief of famines, etc. to various provinces and have done a great deal of good for which the throne has rewarded them several times, many patriotic men in Shanghai have taken pity on him and have raised money for the purpose of refunding the sum which King is said to have embezzled from the Telegraph Office in order to relieve him from getting into trouble on the pretext of embezzlement."

It is reported from Shanghai that the Empress Dowager, having failed to capture Kang Yu Wei, has ordered Lu Chuan-lin, acting Viceroy of Nanking, to arrest and decapitate three rather well-known Chinese residents of the Foreign Settlement of Shanghai. They are Wan Shi-li, a translator at the Kiangnan Arsenal, Wong Yi-nen, brother of Wong Kan-nen, chief editor of the *Universal Gazette*, and Ye Han, the present acting editor of that journal. It is to be hoped that the police will actively intervene to prevent the first step to any such proposed atrocity being taken by the Viceroy's emissaries in the Foreign Settlements.

We learn from the Shanghai papers that the funeral of the late Mr. Sydney Reynell took place at the New Cemetery, Bubbling Well Road, on the 28th ult., and despite the inclement weather, a fairly large number of friends of the deceased gentlemen were present, including Mr. Pelham Warren, Acting Consul-General, Mr. F. Anderson, Chairman of the Municipal Council, most of the Municipal officers, and others. The Rev. H. C. Hodges, Cathedral Chaplain, conducted the burial service in the Mortuary Chapel and at the grave side. The staff of the Municipal Tax Office and others sent beautiful wreaths, together with messages of sympathy for Mrs. Reynell in her sad bereavement.

A Shanghai writer says with regard to the local Volunteer Corps:—"I have been informed that the new regulations regarding the Artillery drill are due to the requirements of the Hongkong officials. Of course if this be so they have to be carried out. At the same time it does seem a pity that an arm of the Corps which has hitherto been so popular should be rendered dissatisfied in the way that the Company now is." Similarly, *The North China Daily News* says that the new Maxims "unfortunately have not yet arrived, and the enforced changes do not altogether appeal to the present members of the battery. That this feeling is quite natural every one must admit, but the high efficiency of this branch of the Corps is sufficient guarantee that all misunderstanding will soon be ended, and the new service taken up with the same enthusiasm which has always marked our artillerymen."

An interesting letter, with reference to the case of King Lien-shan, reaches us from a correspondent, "I suspect," says the writer, "that King Lien-shan probably has been plotting against the Chinese government. You know that Confucius taught the same doctrine as the Jesuit Mariana, that sovereigns are made for the good of their people, who have the right to depose them if they do not govern well. For this reason revolutions and conspiracies are of frequent occurrence in China. It is not possible to please all political parties and conflicting interests. The future of the empire is very gloomy. There are adventurous and mercenary foreigners ready to take part in any form of revolution. Many missionaries, under pretext of preaching Christianity, come to China to buy properties, to trade to excite disorders, to make money and to gain political influence. The greatest and most disastrous rebellion, that of the Taipings, is recorded in history as having been fermented by the missionaries. Almost all the wars and serious complications which China had with Foreign Powers, had been caused only by those who pretend to teach the Gospel of peace and forbearance."



Some time ago arrangements were made for the opening of a school at Nan-chuang-fu, where western subjects were to be included in the curriculum, and a Japanese professor named Nishijima was appointed to take charge of the undertaking. He had been installed for some little time, till the other day, when the officials peremptorily closed up the institution, and Mr. Nishijima is now on his way back to Shanghai. This action on the part of the authorities is supposed to be owing to the chief founder of the school having affixed his name to one of the numerous telegraphic protests forwarded to Peking against the proposed dethronement of Kwang Hsu.

The Japanese Society of East Asian Associated Literature, says *The Japan Gazette*, has established a school in China for the purpose of encouraging progress in that country and improving its relations with Japan. The school has been duly organized in Nanking, and has proved so successful that the Society decided to invite to act as Director Major-General Sato who, as Colonel Sato, distinguished himself greatly in the war of 1894-5, but, having lost a leg from a very serious wound, became incapacitated for active service. He has accepted the post and it is anticipated that his presence at the school will add materially to its prestige. Such an appointment must be interpreted as indicative of a military element in the school's course.

A correspondent in Shanghai, writing on the 2nd inst., says:—"There was a strange scene last night at a performance of the French Dramatic Corps at the Lyceum Theatre. Mr. R. W. Little was seated amongst the audience, when a telegram just received was handed to him. Having previously obtained the sanction of the stage manager, he read aloud to the audience the contents, which proved to be the news of the arrival at Ladysmith of the relieving forces under Lord Dundonald. The news was received with acclamation by the English portion of the audience, who were, however, in a minority; not so by the continentals, especially by the French, who have lately been making themselves conspicuous by their open prophecies of the approaching downfall of British arms, and who now somewhat markedly displayed their chagrin.

The telegram which we published on the 3rd instant about the special edict against Shen Peng is borne out by the following note in the *North China Daily News*:—"A private telegram from Soochow received by members of the Reform Party here on Friday states that word had been received that morning from Changshu to the effect that the Hanlin, Shen Peng, was arrested on Thursday afternoon and placed under confinement in the district magistrate's yamen. Further that he was told by the magistrate to prepare for speedy death. A watch is being kept around the ex-Imperial Tutor Weng Tung-ho's house to prevent his escape, he being too high in rank for the magistrate to arrest him, a special deputy from the Governor being expected to carry this out. It is believed that both Weng and Shen will commit suicide."

## COMMERCIAL.

### CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—There is no market, and the price is going downward. Quotations for Formosa are \$88.50 to \$89.00; sales 150 piculs.

### SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—A further decline in prices is reported, market being very dull. Quotations are:—

|                            |                  |     |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Shekloong, No. 1, White... | \$8.05 to \$8.10 | cl. |
| do. " 2, White...          | 7.35 to 7.40     | "   |
| Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... | 5.55 to 5.60     | "   |
| do. " 2, Brown...          | 5.30 to 5.35     | "   |
| Swatow, No. 1, White...    | 8.15 to 8.20     | "   |
| do. " 1, White...          | 7.40 to 7.45     | "   |
| Swatow, No. 1, Brown...    | 5.45 to 5.50     | "   |
| do. " 2, Brown...          | 5.30 to 5.35     | "   |
| Foochow Sugar Candy...     | 11.90 to 11.95   | "   |
| Shekloong " " " " " "      | 9.90 to 9.95     | "   |

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Clyde*, sailed on the 3rd March. For London:—350 bales waste silk, 34 bales feathers, 5 boxes silks, 5 cases cigars, and 4 cases chocolate. For Manchester:—23 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—42 bales raw silk, 1 case silk, 9 cases Chinaware, and 7 cases curies. For Lyons:—154 bales raw silk. For Manila:—1 bag cocoons.

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—There have been large arrivals at Canton from Wuhu and the prices are further declining. Quotations are:—

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Saigon, Ordinary .....               | \$2.90 to 2.95 |
| " Round, Good quality .....          | 3.25 to 3.30   |
| " Long .....                         | 3.40 to 3.45   |
| Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... | 3.20 to 3.25   |
| " Garden, " No. 1 ...                | 3.45 to 3.50   |
| " White .....                        | 3.85 to 3.90   |
| " Fine Cargo .....                   | 4.25 to 4.30   |

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn:—1,000 bales No. 10 at \$90 to \$103, 50 bales No. 12 at \$89 to \$94, 102 bales No. 16 at \$102 to \$104, 1,000 bales No. 20 at \$106 to \$117. Japanese Yarn:—150 bales No. 20 at \$115 to \$116. White Shirtings:—600 pieces K 300 at \$7.10. Bengal Cotton:—211 bales at \$27.25 to \$28.

METALS.—Iron.—252 piculs square round, and flat bars at \$6.60.

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| COT ON YARN—                 | per bale             |
| Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....   | \$ 79.00 to \$112.00 |
| English—Nos. 16 to 24, ..... | 114.00 to 120.00     |
| " 22 to 24, .....            | 116.00 to 122.00     |
| " 28 to 32, .....            | 129.00 to 133.00     |
| " 38 to 42, .....            | 147.00 to 154.00     |

|                                            |              |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| COTTON PIECE GOODS—                        | per piece    |
| Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. ....                 | 2.00 to 2.10 |
| 7 lbs. ....                                | 2.20 to 2.25 |
| 8 4 lbs. ....                              | 2.95 to 3.80 |
| 9 to 10 lbs. ....                          | 3.90 to 4.85 |
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. ....          | 2.75 to 2.95 |
| 58 to 60 " ....                            | 3.25 to 3.9  |
| 64 to 66 " ....                            | 4.25 to 5.00 |
| Fine .....                                 | 5.20 to 8.00 |
| Book-folds. ....                           | 4.55 to 6.45 |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...                | 0.80 to 1.60 |
| T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. ....       | 1.85 to 2.00 |
| 7lbs. (32 " ) ..                           | 2.10 to 2.30 |
| 6lbs. (32 " ), Mexs. ....                  | 2.00 to 2.20 |
| 7lbs. (32 " ) ..                           | 2.55 to 2.90 |
| 8 to 8 4 oz., (36 in.) ....                | 2.90 to 3.60 |
| Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16lbs. .... | 4.30 to 7.20 |

|                                          |               |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| FANCY COTTONS—                           | per piece     |
| Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8lbs. .... | 1.75 to 7.20  |
| Brocades—Dyed .....                      | 4.20 to 5.70  |
| Chintzes—Assorted .....                  | 0.084 to 0.17 |
| Velvet—Black, 22 in .....                | 0.26 to 0.65  |
| Velveteens—18 in. ....                   | 0.234 to 0.28 |
| Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk .....       | 0.40 to 2.50  |

|                                         |                |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| WOOLLENS—                               | per yard       |
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. ....      | 1.00 to 1.75   |
| German .....                            | — to —         |
| Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. ....     | 1.55 to 1.75   |
| Long Ells—Scarlet .....                 | 6.80 to 10.40  |
| Assorted .....                          | 6.90 to 10.50  |
| Camlets—Assorted .....                  | 13.50 to 33.00 |
| Lastings 30 yds., 3 inches, Assorted .. | 10.50 to 23.00 |
| Orleans—Plain .....                     | 8.50 to 10.00  |
| Blankets—8 to 12lbs. ....               | 4.20 to 16.00  |

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| METALS—                            | per picul  |
| Iron—Nail Rod .....                | 6.35 to —  |
| Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) ..   | 6.50 to —  |
| Swedish Bar .....                  | 8.25 to —  |
| Small Round Rod .....              | 7.00 to —  |
| Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in. ....         | 7.50 to —  |
| Wire 15/25 .....                   | 10.50 to — |
| Old Wire Rope .....                | 3.00 to —  |
| Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop .. | 10.35 to — |
| Australian .....                   | 10.35 to — |
| Yellow Metal—Muntz. 14/20 oz. .... | 41.00 to — |
| Vivian's. 14/20 oz. ....           | 41.00 to — |
| Elliot's. 14/20 oz. ....           | 41.00 to — |
| New Chop. 14/20 oz. ....           | 42.75 to — |
| Composition Nails .....            | 65.00 to — |
| Japan Copper, Slabs .....          | 40.00 to — |
| Tin .....                          | 86.00 to — |

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Tin-Plates .....     | per box. 8.60 to —         |
| Steel 1/2 to 1 ..... | per cwt. case 7.25 to —    |
| SUNDRIES—            | per picul                  |
| Quicksilver .....    | 175.00 to —                |
| Window Glass .....   | per box. 6.25 to —         |
| Kerosene Oil .....   | per 10-gal. case 2.91 to — |

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—The market has been fairly active during the week and there are several important changes in rates to be noted. The Hongkong Land Company at an Extraordinary General Meeting passed a resolution for capitalising their reserve fund and by a call of \$25 per share payable by 1st July making their shares fully paid up; and Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd. advertise an increase of capital by an issue of four new to every five old shares, holders on the Register on 1st March to receive the preference of the New issue.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai's during the early part of the week ruled quiet with small sales at \$310 and \$312; later however in sympathy with a £2 rise in the London rate the market hardened considerably and a demand at \$316 and \$317 not being met the rate gradually rose to 321 1/2 per cent. after small transactions at \$320 and \$321. Market closes steady at 322 per cent. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders after sales at \$56 and \$53 continue on offer at the latter rate without inducing buyers, to come forward. Unions have changed hands in small lots at \$230 at \$130 and Cantons at \$130. Straits are unsaleable at quotation. In the absence of local business the quotations for the Northern Insurances are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars.

FIRE INSURANCES.—The market has ruled weak with sellers and only small sales of Hongkongs at \$315 and of Chinas at \$89 cum div. and later at \$82 ex div.

SHIPPING.—Small lots of Hongkong Canton and Macao have changed hands at \$29 1/2 and \$29, market closing steady at the latter rate. Indos after fair sales at \$74.89 and \$90 have advanced to \$91 with further sales. On time a few transactions have been put through at \$93 for Jun- and \$94 for July. The market closes steady at \$90. Donclases are reported at \$48 and 48 1/2 closing steady at \$49. China Manilas have been enquired for but no shares being obtainable the rate rose to \$120. This Company advertises its ordinary meeting for the 24th inst. Transfer books close on the 10th instant. China Mutuals could still be placed at quotations but no shares are procurable.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars, after a fair business at \$132 and \$133, quickly rose to \$148 with sales. At time of writing however the market is considerably weaker with sales and sellers at \$140. Luzons are on offer at \$45 without finding buyers.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong, and Whampoa Docks have continued dull and out of favour with small sales at 490 per cent. prem for cash and settlements. At time of closing however the market is firmer and a small demand at \$500 meets with no response. Kowloon Wharfs continue steady with sales and buyers at \$82 1/2 ex div. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms have changed hands in unimportant lots at \$7.25 cum last call. Queens and Olivers have been negotiated at quotations. The latter advises a crushing of 495 tons yielding 230 oz for 24 days in February. Raubs have ruled much quieter with sellers and only small sales at \$62, market closing quiet at \$61. Great Easterns have changed hands at quotations in small lots.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue in favour and fair sales have been effected at \$123 \$124 and \$125 closing steady with buyers at \$125 1/2. Kowloon Lands without change or business. Hotels have ruled firmer with sales at \$127 and \$127 1/2 closing steady at \$128. West Points have been in strong demand at \$44 and \$45 to \$47 without bringing any shares on the market. Humphreys have been enquired for at \$9 1/2 after small sales.



in the early part of the week at \$9. At time of closing shares could be placed at \$9½.

**COTTONS.**—Hongkongs have changed hands at \$37. No local business to report in the Northern Mills.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Green Islands have found buyers at \$28½, \$28½, \$29, \$29½ and \$30 market closing steady at the last rate. Fenwicks have changed hands at \$48. Watsons at \$17 and \$16½ Electrics at \$12½ and \$12½ and China Providents at \$9.40.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY.                        | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS.           |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| <b>Banks—</b>                   |          |                       |
| Hongkong & Shanghai             | \$125    | 32½ p. ct. prem. =    |
| China & Japan, ordy.            | £4       | £1, buyers            |
| Do. deferred                    | £1       | £5 5s.                |
| Natl. Bank of China             |          |                       |
| B. Shares                       | £8       | \$25½.                |
| Foun. Shares                    | £8       | \$25, buyers          |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A.           | £1       | nominal               |
| Campbell, Moore & Co.           | \$10     | \$18                  |
| China Prov. L. & M.             | \$10     | \$9.40.               |
| China Sugar                     | \$100    | \$140, sellers        |
| <b>Cotton Mills—</b>            |          |                       |
| Ewo                             | Tls. 100 | Tls. 64, buyers       |
| International                   | Tls. 100 | Tls. 75.              |
| Laou Kung Mow                   | Tls. 100 | Tls. 74.              |
| Soychee                         | Tls. 500 | Tls. 410.             |
| Yahloong                        | Tls. 100 | Tls. 57.              |
| Hongkong                        | \$100    | \$37, sales           |
| Dairy Farm                      | \$6      | \$6, buyers           |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo.             | \$25     | \$48, sales & sellers |
| Green Island Cement             | \$10     | \$30, sellers         |
| H. & C. Bakery                  | \$50     | \$25.                 |
| Hongkong & C. Gas               | £10      | \$127.                |
| Hongkong Electric               | \$10     | \$13, sellers         |
| H. H. L. Tramways               | \$100    | \$2.25, buyers        |
| Hongkong Hotel                  | \$50     | \$128, sellers        |
| Hongkong Ice                    | \$25     | \$167½, sellers       |
| H. & K. Wharf & G.              | \$50     | \$2½, ex div.         |
| Hongkong Rope                   | \$50     | \$350.                |
| H. & W. Dock                    | \$125    | \$500 % prem. =       |
| <b>Insurance—</b>               |          |                       |
| Canton                          | \$50     | \$180.                |
| China Fire                      | \$20     | \$81, ex div. sellers |
| China Traders'                  | \$25     | \$53, sellers         |
| Hongkong Fire                   | \$50     | \$300, sellers        |
| North-China                     | \$25     | Tls. 180.             |
| Straits                         | \$20     | \$1.                  |
| Union                           | \$50     | \$230.                |
| Yangtze                         | \$60     | \$131, sellers        |
| <b>Land and Building—</b>       |          |                       |
| Hongkong Land Inv.              | \$50     | \$125½, buyers        |
| Humphreys Estate                | \$10     | \$9½, buyers          |
| Kowloon Land & B.               | \$30     | \$26, sellers         |
| West Point Building             | \$50     | \$47, buyers          |
| Luzon Sugar                     | \$100    | \$45, sellers         |
| <b>Mining—</b>                  |          |                       |
| Charbonnages                    | Fcs. 250 | \$350 [Shares         |
| Gt. Estn. & C'donian            | \$5      | 90 cts., sellers, New |
| Do. Preference                  | \$1      | 40 cts., sellers      |
| Jebeu                           | \$5      | \$14½, sellers        |
| Queen's Mines Ltd.              | 25c.     | 27 cts. sellers       |
| Olivers Mines, A.               | \$5      | \$5½, buyers          |
| Do. B.                          | \$4½     | \$4.80.               |
| Punjom                          | \$6      | \$7.25, buyers        |
| Do. Preference                  | \$1      | \$1.40, buyers        |
| Raubs                           | 15s. 10d | \$62, sellers         |
| New Amoy Dock                   | \$6½     | \$20½, sellers        |
| <b>Steamship Coys.—</b>         |          |                       |
| China and Manila                | \$50     | \$120, buyers         |
| China Mutual Pref.              | £10      | £10.10, buyers        |
| China Ordinary                  | £10      | £10.10, buyers        |
| Do.                             | £5       | £5.5s., buyers        |
| Douglas Steamship               | \$50     | \$49.                 |
| H. Canton and M.                | \$15     | \$29, sellers         |
| Indo-China S.N.                 | £10      | \$90, buyers          |
| Shell Transport and Trading Co. | £100     | £260, buyers          |
| Star Ferry                      | \$7½     | \$18½.                |
| Tebrau Planting Co.             | \$5      | \$5, sellers          |
| Do.                             | \$3      | \$3.                  |
| United Asbestos                 | \$2      | \$5½, buyers          |
| Do.                             | \$10     | \$10, nominal         |
| Wanchai Warehouse               | \$37½    | \$45½, buyers         |
| Watkins, Ltd.                   | \$10     | \$11½, buyers         |
| Watson & Co., A. S.             | \$10     | \$16½, sellers        |

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

#### EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 9th March

#### ON LONDON.—

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Telegraphic Transfer           | 111½ |
| Bank Bills, on demand          | 111½ |
| Bank Bills, at 80 days' sight  | 111½ |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 111½ |

Credits, at 4 months' sight ..... 111½  
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/0

#### ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand ..... 2.46  
Credits, at 4 months' sight ..... 2.50½

#### ON GERMANY.—

On demand ..... 200½

#### ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand ..... 47½  
Credits, 60 days' sight ..... 48½

#### ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer ..... 145  
Bank, on demand ..... 145½

#### ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer ..... 145  
Bank, on demand ..... 145½

#### ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight ..... 71½  
Private, 30 days' sight ..... 72½

#### ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand ..... 3½ % pm

#### ON MANILA.—

On demand ..... 2½ % pm

#### ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand ..... ½ % pm.

#### ON HAIPHONG.—

on demand ..... 2½ % pm.

#### ON SAIGON.—

On demand ..... 2½ % pm.

#### ON BANGKOK.—

On demand ..... 61

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate ..... 10.17

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine per tael ..... 52.95

#### VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Tienkai (str.), Parramatta (str.),  
Coromandel (str.), Java (str.), Mossilia (str.),  
Calchas (str.), Ceylon (str.), Orestes (str.).  
For Marseilles.—Laos (str.), Cathay (str.),  
Parramatta (str.), Mossilia (str.).  
For LIVERPOOL Direct.—Nestor (str.).  
For BREMEN.—Stuttgart (str.).  
For TRIESTE VIA STRAITS.—Frz. Ferdinand  
(str.), Melpomene (str.).  
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sazonia (str.),  
Savoia (str.), Heidelberg (str.), Sibiria (str.).  
For VICTORIA, B.C.—Rojun Maru (str.), Good-  
win (str.).  
For SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—  
Suisang (str.).  
For VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of  
Japan (str.).  
For PORTLAND, O.—Monmouthshire (str.).  
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Algoa (str.), Doric (str.),  
Nippon Maru (str.).  
For NEW YORK.—Pathan (str.), Asturia (str.).  
For AUSTRALIA.—Changsha (str.), Australian  
(str.).  
For SINGAPORE, PENANG AND BOMBAY.—Bisag-  
no (str.).  
For SAN DIEGO VIA KOBE.—Thyra (str.).

#### SHIPPING.

#### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

#### MAIL.

#### HONGKONG.

#### March—

#### ARRIVALS.

2, Oyo Maru, Japanese str., from Keelung.  
2, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.  
3, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.  
3, Dr. H. J. Kier, Norw. str., from Swatow.  
3, Changsha, British str., from Moji.  
3, Independent, Ger. str., from Samarang.  
3, Pakshan, British str., from Saigon.  
3, Taishun, Chinese str., from Canton.  
4, Algoa, British str., from San Francisco.  
4, Dart, British str., from Kutchinotau.  
4, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.  
4, Onsang, British str., from Samarang.  
4, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.  
5, Camorta, British str., from Amoy.  
5, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.  
5, Morven, British str., from Shanghai.  
5, Kongo, Japanese cr., from Yokohama.  
5, Hiyel, Japanese cruiser, from Yokohama.  
5, Konig Albert, German str., from Bremen.  
5, Fooksang, British str., from Canton.  
5, Bayern, British str., from Shanghai.  
5, Cheangchew, British str., from Straits.  
5, Apenrade, German str., from Hoihow.  
5, Phranang, British str., from Bangkok.  
6, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.  
6, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.  
6, Candia, British str., from Singapore.  
6, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.  
6, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.

6, Ceylon, British str., from Yokohama.  
6, Tailee, German str., from Manila.  
6, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.  
6, Kansu, British str., from Java.  
6, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Swatow.  
7, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.  
7, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.  
7, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.  
7, Sarpedon, British str., from Amoy.  
7, Tamsui Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.  
7, Benlawer, British str., from Saigon.  
7, Lyeemoon, German str., from S'anghal.  
7, Seang Leong, British str., from Rangoon.  
7, Pakhoi, British str., from Wuhu.  
7, Taifu, German str., from Saigon.  
8, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notu.  
8, Nanyang, German str., from Saigon.  
8, Nestor, British str., from Amoy.  
8, Tientsin, British str., from Sourabaya.  
9, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.  
9, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.  
9, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.  
9, Goodwin, British str., from Tacoma.  
9, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.  
9, Hector, British str., from Liverpool.  
9, Kenmore, British str., from Manila.  
9, Shanghai, British str., from Singapore.  
9, Peiyang, German str., from Saigon.  
9, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Moji.  
9, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.

#### March—

#### DEPARTURES.

3, Clyde, British str., for Europe.  
3, China, Amr. str., for San Francisco.  
3, Hunan, British str., for Canton.  
3, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.  
3, Arab, British str., for Manila.  
3, Telena, British str., for Manila.  
3, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.  
3, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.  
3, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Nagasaki.  
3, Keongwai, British str., for Bangkok.  
3, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.  
3, Sungkian, British str., for Manila.  
3, Diamante, British str., for Manila.  
3, Ayr, British str., for Kutchinotau.  
3, Fausang, British str., for Singapore.  
3, Tritos, German str., for Singapore.  
3, Rosetta, British str., for Yokohama.  
4, Wuhu, British str., for Wuhu.  
4, Madaura Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.  
4, Dr. H. J. Kier, Norw. str., for Saigon.  
4, Hue, French str., for Hoihow.  
4, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.  
5, Progress, German str., for Touron.  
5, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.  
5, Brisk, British cruiser, for Shanghai.  
5, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
5, Relief, U.S. transport, for Manila.  
6, Konig Albert, German str., for Shanghai.  
6, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.  
6, Amara, British str., for Singapore.  
6, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.  
6, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.  
6, Baltimore, U.S. cruiser, for Manila.  
6, City of London, British str., for Saigon.  
7, Emily Reed, Amr. ship, for P. Townsend.  
7, Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.  
7, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.  
7, Choyang, British str., for Canton.  
7, Hating, French str., for Haiphong.  
7, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.  
7, Cheangchew, British str., for Amoy.  
7, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.  
7, Bayern, German str., for Europe.  
8, Chingtu, British str., for Kobe.  
8, Toyo Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.  
8, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.  
8, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.  
8, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.  
8, Ceylon, British str., for London.  
8, Trym, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.  
8, Morven, British str., for New York.  
8, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.  
8, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.  
8, P. C. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.  
8, Independent, German str., for Singapore.  
8, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.  
8, Hertha, German cruiser, for Japan.  
8, Liberal, Portuguese g.-bt., for Macao.  
9, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.  
9, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.  
9, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for London.  
9, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotau.  
9, Sarpedon, British str., for London.  
9, Wheeling, U.S. gunboat, for Manila.  
9, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.  
9, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.



9, Seang Leong, British str., for Amoy.  
9, Tetartos, German str., for Singapore.  
9, Nanchang, British str., for Weihaiwei.

## PASSENGER LIST.

## ARRIVED.

Per *Taisang*, from Singapore, &c., Rev. and Mrs. Mansell, Miss Eastor, Lieut. Brooks, Messrs. Halliwell, Li Yu, Lin Shu and Tsen Shee.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Rev. J. R. Bykes, Master F. W. Shaw, Master B. Begley, Messrs. Orange and R. Greig, Miss Bland, Mr. P. Schaburt and Mr. F. C. Koo.

Per *Parramatta*, from Hongkong, from London, Mr. E. McKay, Capt. Tecque, Messrs. Sims, D. E. Maze, J. Danalie, T. Tremiene, and F. Petrie, Mr. and Mrs. Denny, Messrs. T. Denny and J. Denny, from Marseille, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. T. Skrimshire, Miss Wright, Messrs. McIntre and Dalgliesh and Dr. J. Anderson; from Gibraltar, Mr. F. de Palhas; from Brindisi, Mr. Priddant, Mr. and Mrs. Justice Williams, Miss Williams and Mr. H. L. Williams; from Bombay, Messrs. P. L. Wright and D. Vainia, Mrs. J. Setna and child, Messrs. Sassoon Nissim and servant and D. Escaffally; from Colombo, Rev. W. H. and Mrs. Findlay and Mr. Skrimshire; from Penang, Mr. Gibson; from Singapore, Messrs. L. D. Crox, W. Chapman, Pye, Chew Kaun Tiap, L. Bailey and servant, E. Nardin, Meyer and H. B. Durnell; for Shanghai, from London, Messrs. Entwistle, St. John Wayne and valet, Newcome and J. Thomason; from Marseilles, Messrs. E. Krauss, C. Sharp, McLean McLaughlan, Mrs. Radcliffe, Miss Young, Mr. C. Smith Ryland and servant (Mr. Andrews); from Bombay, Lieut. L. A. C. Ollivant; for Manila, from London, Mr. G. Bartler; for Yokohama, from London, Misses Hutton (?), Messrs. H. Sepper, Lawton, Misses Lawton (?), from Marseilles, Mr. Cartwright; from Auckland, Mr. and Mrs. La Roche and Miss La Roche; from Brindisi, Mrs. and Miss Kirkland, Miss Cochrane, Misses G. A. O'Brien and W. L. O'Brien. Through Passengers: from Port Said for Bombay and Hongkong, Messrs. E. Lewis and A. Woods; from Marseilles for Bombay, Mr. J. S. Elmore; from Singapore, for Shanghai, Mr. F. Elmore; for Hongkong, Messrs. Guterrez, J. L. Remedios and one assistant; from Marseilles, for Yokohama, Mr. H. Pattman.

Per *Loosok*, from Bangkok, &c., Messrs. F. Pollitzi and W. Thompson.

Per *Formosa* from Swatow, Captain Jaslin and 141 Chinese.

Per *Konig Albert*, from Bremen, for Hongkong, Messrs. Emil Hagenmuller and Hans Lindmeyer; for Shanghai, Mrs. Apotheker Voelkel and children; for Nagasaki, Mr. Peter Held, Mrs. Minnie Langschwadt, Mr. Wilhelm Neuhauser; from Southampton, for Hongkong, Mr. P. J. Gillings, Miss Jones, Mr. P. J. Laird, Miss Poulter, Miss Sara Snuggs, Mrs. Stovell and child, Mrs. Stringer and Mrs. Weekes; for Shanghai, Mrs. Burn, Dr. Dukes, Mr. and Mrs. Green and child, Mrs. Chas. Hay, Dr. Frazer Hurst, Mr. J. P. Joseland, Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. King, Mrs. Law, Mr. Henry Morris, Miss Reid, Mr. T. Sayle, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, children and servant, Mr. Stone, Jr., Mrs. Stone and child, Mrs. Smith and children, Mrs. Squares and servant, Miss Timmis, Miss Ware and Mrs. Whitehouse and child; for Yokohama, Mr. W. F. Bladen, Mrs. Brent, Messrs. V. A. Busbridge, Henry Greswolde-Williams, W. H. Hacking, Arthur Hacking, Mr. and Mrs. James Wright, Miss J. Wright, Miss Wright and Mr. Barclay Wright and child; from Genoa, for Hongkong, Mr. A. W. Bain, Rev. and Mrs. W. Banister, Miss Martha Brauer, Mr. R. P. Dipple, Miss Hubbard, Mr. Theodor Meyer, Consul and Mrs. Streich; for Shanghai, Mrs. Constanze Derkhien, Miss Gesine Gerken, Messrs. Hermann Gottwald, Georg Heymann, Mrs. Rosa Huber, Messrs. Friedrich Huchting and Regierungs-Baumeister a. D. Robert Kado, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Kent, Messrs. Carl Loffler, R. MacGregor, Gustav Reessing, Conrad Schramm, Friedr. Schuler, Mr. and Mrs. A. Wright, Misses Alice Wright and Ethel Wright; for Nagasaki, Mr. Hasse; for Yokohama, Messrs. Rich Becker, William Hartmann, Adolf Imhoff, John McDonald, J. C. van Son and Dr. Lothar v. Wiedenfeld; from Naples, for Shanghai, Miss Doulton, Mr. and Mrs. Moir Duncan, Mr. Hermann Henkel, Miss Helene Luther and Mr.

Whitehouse; for Yokohama, Misses J. H. Graham and T. H. Graham; from Port Said, for Hongkong, Mrs. Goldsmith; for Yokohama, H. E. Graf Iswolski and servant; from Colombo, for Hongkong, Mrs. and Miss Downie, Mr. and Mrs. Niels Hoy; for Yokohama, Mr. Chr. B. Mohr and Gunner E. Naess and servant.

Per *Bayern*, from Yokohama, &c., Lieut. C. M. McCormik, Messrs. A. F. Gardiner, D. Glym, L. W. Smith, Alex. W. V. Gibb, Wm. E. McGill, Lieut. Portes, Mr. and Mrs. S. Y. Levey, Messrs. R. H. Parken, L. Spitzel, M. Bodemeyer and E. W. Arnold.

Per *Haiman*, from Tamsui, &c., Mrs. Talemage, Miss Butler, Miss Kalkorn, Miss Johnson and Mr. Takashima.

Per *Phr nang*, from Bangkok, Capt. Missel, Messrs. Michael and Wethrell.

Per *Ceylon*, from Yokohama, Mrs. Lockyer and child, Mrs. Smithers, Mrs. Sawyer and Lieut. H. F. D. Jeff, R.N.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Messrs. Emil Frischknecht, Pablo Freed, Andres Triyillo, Allan, M. Headley, R. B. Israel, Mrs. Socorro Valero, baby and amah, Messrs. J. L. Tr. launt, Unosuki Kato, H. J. Grover, Lieut. Hogg, Mr. H. F. Morris, Capt. G. Parker, Messrs. A. E. Castle and Thomas Cauty, Capt. Raymond, Messrs. M. Deane and Wm. A. Hill.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Plant, Dr. Moses, Messrs. J. W. Jameson, Emerson, Burrot, Adlington and Peak.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Walkinshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Soames, Mrs. Goub, Messrs. McGregor, Bocard, Blum and Ah Tsai and 537 Chinese.

Per *Meefoo*, from Shanghai, Lieut. Claude Hamilton Verner, R.N.R.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Moji, Mrs. and Miss A. D. Roberts, Capt. C. A. Hillcoat and Mr. Clark.

Per *Lyeemoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Massen and Mathay.

## DEPARTED.

Per *Yuensang*, from Hongkong, for Manila, Lieut. Commander and Mrs. B. T. Walling, U.S.N. and child, Mrs. S. B. Tainter, Misses Zeigler and Burrell, Messrs. P. T. Hersec, R. Paridant, J. W. Winberg, B. Barbash, Paul Welch, Samuel Berger, Isidoro de Castro, Yomamoto, L. M. Yiemenez and Mariano Bassilio.

Per *Glyde*, from Hongkong, for Marseilles, Mrs. Layton and child, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. France, Miss Bambridge, Mr. Harry Wicking, Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Casar Hawkins; for London, Messrs. W. Parlane, F. Sloer, Miss Bland, Mr. Ward and Captain C. H. Chapman, R.A.; for Marseilles, Mr. J. d'Albuquerque Amaral, Mr. R. T. Rolph, Mr. and Mrs. Rogge and 2 children, Infant and Amah, Miss Von Humbers; for Colombo, Mr. Wm. Diniwiddie; for Penang, Dr. J. G. Edgar and native servant; for Singapore, Mr. H. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Horsey, Mr. Fung Choy, Mr. F. Brooks and native servant, Messrs. E. Daliato and J. C. dos Remedios, and Chinese assistant, Mr. Wong Ping Man, Mr. Wong Queo, Mr. Chan Mow; from Yokohama for London, Mr. and Mrs. Shoebridge and child; from Shanghai, Miss Duthoit.

Per *Parramatta*, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Lieut. G. C. Brook, Messrs. G. T. Geuge, and B. A. C. Geuge.

Per *Rosetta*, for Nagasaki, Mrs. A. J. Sears; for Kobe, Mr. Anderson; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Turner.

Per *Diamante*, for Manila, Messrs. J. de Loyzaga y Agno, H. J. Rothwell, Mrs. Raz, Mrs. E. C. Danforth, Mr. N. Brunschwig, Mr. and Mrs. Earushaw, 2 children and amah, Messrs. F. A. Jacobs, A. R. Cotton, J. M. Lewis, Mrs. Sawyer, Miss Sawyer, Mrs. Featherngill, Mr. J. W. Glenn, Mrs. McDonald, Mr. D. E. Fee, Mrs. P. M. Ashburn, Mrs. J. Ashburn, Mrs. C. H. Hilton and child, Mrs. Dade and 2 children, Mr. A. J. Findlay and son, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord, Mrs. Emerson, Miss Serozier, Mr. and Mrs. Denny, Messrs. J. O. H. Denny, F. Denny and W. H. Dalgleish.

Per *China*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Owen Aldis, Owen Franklin Aldis, Mrs. Dowier and native servant, Mrs. B. M. Munday, Mr. Delbecque, Mrs. Delbecque, Mrs. Paulet, Messrs. J. Havers, E. C. Potter and J. W. Watson; for Nagasaki, Messrs. H. A.

Nicholson, H. A. la Forrest and E. McCann for Kobe, Messrs. Ralph Platt, David Rice, Mrs. Rice and Miss Brewer; for Yokohama, Mrs. F. H. Eldridge, Mrs. F. Parsons, Master George Parsons and Miss Dorothy Parsons, Messrs. Ho Hin Fong and Han Wai Yee; for San Francisco, Mrs. Geo. C. Holberton and native Siamese servant, Messrs. Feerry H. Holberton, Yu Yuen Chai and native servant, A. Fair, Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Mansell, Mrs. C. Easton; for Chicago, Mrs. Dr. Begler and Mrs. V. Turnpangh; for Hamburg, Mr. Max Fleischer; for London, Mr. and Mrs. A. Balfour.

Per *Konig Albert*, for Shanghai, from Bremen, Messrs. Voelkel and family, H. Lindmeyer, W. Rehling and O. Collarino; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. King, Messrs. F. Hurst, H. Morris, E. F. Smith, Tom Stayle, Wm. Lang, T. McLean, Mrs. Whitehouse, Misses Law, Reid, Tenasis, Burn and Ware, Messrs. Stevens and family and Green and family; from Genoa, Messrs. R. Kado, F. Kuchting, A. Wright, R. McGregor, Chas. Hay, Mrs. Derkhien, Messrs. A. R. Agassiz, H. Witte, G. Reising, W. E. Kent, H. Gottwaldt, G. Heymann, C. Loffler, F. Schuler, Miss G. Gerken, Mrs. R. Huber; from Naples, Messrs. P. Niedeck, Honkel, Whitehouse, Mr. and Mrs. N. Dunsan, Miss Doulton; from Penang, Mrs. Just and Miss M. Cruz; from Singapore, Messrs. C. T. Smith and M. Postco; from Hongkong, Messrs. S. Voelkel, G. Davis, C. W. Hay, F. Pollitzer, C. Brandt, G. Harling, J. H. Brost, Mrs. K. Wilburn, Messrs. P. Engels, Woien, B. Stanoivez, R. P. Dipple and J. Remedios; for Nagasaki, from Southampton, Mrs. Stone; from Genoa, Mr. Haase; from Bremen, Messrs. P. Held, W. Nuhauser and Longschwadt; for Hiogo, from Genoa, Mrs. M. Scheidt; for Kobe, from Hongkong, Messrs. H. B. Darnell, W. J. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Finlay, Mrs. F. A. Jorge, baby and amah; for Yokohama, from Southampton, Mr. Wright and family, Mrs. Brendt, Messrs. W. Balden, Williams, A. Bushbridge, A. Hacking, W. Hartmann, H. W. Hacking, Princess S. D. Singh and B. D. Singh and Mr. S. Balden; from Genoa, Mr. R. Becker, Dr. L. v. Wiedenfelder, Mrs. Montgomerie, Mr. John McDonald, Mrs. Squire and Mr. Schraun; from Naples, Mr. and Mrs. Rothberger, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Esch, Mr. and Mrs. Friedenburg, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Campbell, Messrs. Dormer and family and E. Naas and servant and Misses F. H. Graham; from Colombo, Mr. C. B. Bohm; from Singapore, Mr. F. E. Gillfillan; from Hongkong, Mrs. E. Morrison, Messrs. W. A. Chamberlain, G. Forren, Mrs. C. Watney and maid and Prof. A. Koebele.

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Printed and Published by J. A. WAUGH'S SONS, at 29, Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.